WALSALL
CHRONICLE

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Firm's new brews to get festivities going

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FLEET SUNK

Romaine breaks Bradshaw's 'curse'

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SPOTLIGHT ON YOBS PROBLEM

STREET lights will be fitted in parts of Walsall plagued by anti-social behaviour – funded by the firm that makes them. The first location for the new lights will be Mossley.

Four LED lights with motion detectors are being installed at Cresswell Crescent Parade in the Mossley Estate following complaints that residents were afraid of walking there at night. It means the lamps will switch on when someone approaches. Manufacturers Digiland will pay for the lights and bosses are now seeking up to five other blackspots.

Operations director Ian Adams said: "We have been in touch with Walsall Council to find out which areas would need the lights and we will make a decision soon.

"We are happy to pay for this and we hope it will make a difference for residents."

Walsall North Conservative parliamentary candidate Douglas Hansen-Luke held talks with Digicare to secure the investment and said he hoped it would cut crime.

He said the lights will 'act as a real deterrent to anti-social behaviour such as drug-dealing, vandalism and petty crime'.

He added: "I'm delighted Digiland have committed to provide lighting for Walsall's worst crime blackspots."

Energy

The lights in Mossley will be installed on private land owned by Palminder Singh, who own shop units and the Leathern Bottle pub.

Digiland, based in Telford, is one of Britain's leading sellers of LED lights and they are used on streets, warehouses and football pitches.

The LED lights use less energy than traditional bulbs and are being introduced by councils across the region.

Sandwell has also been replacing its lamps with energy-saving lanterns.

Attention is now turning to 1,120 street lights that line the borough's main roads, which burn the most energy, in a bid to slash another £88,000 from annual council electricity bills.

It is estimated that over a 25-year period, the moves could save Sandwell Council £12.7 million in energy costs.

Some of these new lanterns have already been in operation on the Black Country Route for the past few months.

If any business or area would like to apply for lighting, they should email rhughes@workingforwalsall.com

40 Jobs at risk in move for suppliers

MORE than 40 jobs are at risk at a firm which is closing its site in Walsall and switching production to an outsourced global supply chain. Aldridge-based Maloney Metalcraft, which has 78 staff, was rescued by Avingtrans in 2013 when the engineering group bought the business for a token £1.

Avingtrans, which makes components for the aerospace, energy and medical sectors, said the closure and sale of the site in Westgate was already in progress in a move that would lower costs and improve logistics.

Bosses said the steep decline in oil prices and the resulting delays in a number of project decisions had presented the group with the need to implement an accelerated cost reduction programme across the energy and medical division.

It comes despite the group reporting record sales for the year to the end of May, with revenue increasing by 33 per cent to £60.3 million.

The factory designs, fabricates and installs products for the global oil and gas market.

Austen Adams, managing director of the energy and medical division of Avingtrans, e said 41 staff could be made redundant in various phases between January and June, but would be redeployed wherever possible.

250 gripes on hospital

NEARLY 250 complaints were made about Walsall Manor hospital in a month, new figures reveal. In October there were 217 informal complaints and 32 formal ones. This was compared to 218 informal and 26 formal in the previous month.

Of the formal complaints in October, 19 were centred on treatment and assessment. Ten were about the care of elderly patients, and five were about general surgery.

Switching on to new TV station

LOCAL television for the Black Country could start to be broadcast from February 28 next year. Kaleidoscope TV, which is being run by Wolverhampton-born Chris Perry and former ATV presenter Mike Prince, has been awarded the local TV licence for the area which will also cover Birmingham and Solihull.

Mr Perry, who also runs the Kaleidoscope heritage television organisation which is based in Stourbridge, said that Walsall was among four sites – the other three are in the Aston area – where the new company is looking to have its studios.

Ofcom's broadcast licensing committee has awarded the licence to Kaleidoscope TV following the collapse of City TV earlier this year. The media regulator has given the license on condition it launches the new digital service on Freeview before the end of February.

Kaleidoscope's commitments include an initial 41 hours of local programmes a week, including a 90-minute breakfast show, news at noon and a half-hour programme of news at 6pm and 10pm.

Director Chris Perry owns half the firm with the other half owned by Mr Prince, who was to have been City TV's programme controller. Mr Prince said Kaleidoscope TV was totally separate from the heritage television organisation.

It's sleigh away for Lily-Mae

Lily-Mae Donovan seen with Santa just before boarding for her sleigh ride in Walsall

CHRISTMAS came early for one lucky Walsall schoolgirl on Saturday when Lily-Mae Donovan won a special Santa sleigh ride following the Victorian Arcade Shopping Centre's 'Design a snowman' competition.

The competition invited children aged 11 and under to draw, paint, colour or decorate the snowman of their dreams.

Lily-Mae's cotton wool snow woman was declared as the winner due to her attention to detail and its all-round glittering and frosty feel. As part of the prize, Lily-Mae from Rushall, rode through town alongside Santa in a festive sleigh, drawn by two magnificent shire horses. What's more, Lily-Mae received a host of early presents.

All the entries are displayed in the window of Santa's grotto in the Victorian Arcade for all of Walsall to see. It is open every Saturday 10am-3pm, entry £2.50 per child.

Intake at home put on hold for probe

ELDERLY people are no longer being referred to a care home by a council after an investigation was launched over the quality of care being provided.

Social care chiefs at Walsall Council suspended placements at Fernwood Court, in Bentley, when a complaint was made to them. But Fernwood's owner, the health care operator, Four Seasons said none of the allegations have been substantiated and it was due to hold talks with the town hall over when normal services would resume.

There are currently 51 residents at the premises which can accommodate 59.

A statement said the council has suspended new placements funded by the council at Fernwood Court care home. A routine CQC inspection – not prompted by the complaint – on September 4 found residents were 'not being supported by staff in a safe manner' and that there were shortages due to workers' illness.

Agency staff not arriving on time to cover was given as one of the reasons. However the report also found staff were caring and that action was already being taken to address concerns.

In a statement Four Seasons said: "We will be meeting with the authority in the near future to discuss resumption of admissions."

Anger over cuts threat

CAMPAIGNERS against domestic violence say Walsall Council proposals to axe £20,000 from their budget will have devastating consequences for victims.

Walsall Domestic Violence Forum is among service groups, supported by the town hall, facing cuts under the borough's draft budget.

Forum chairman Caroline Crolley said: "This proposal will severely cut the funding to fight domestic violence which would be devastating."

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Parcel firm delivers festive boost

SIX HUNDRED jobs have been created at a parcel delivery firm's sorting centre to deal with the Christmas rush.

Yodel, which has a main sorting centre on the Willenhall/Darlaston border, has created the seasonal roles, which include warehouse staff and drivers.

Bosses say they have already filled 450 vacancies and are looking for an additional 150 sorting staff for its centre in Owen Road.

The company, which handles more than 145 million parcels per year, is recruiting 5,000 part-time and full-time staff across the UK in preparation for the Christmas peak, when it expects to handle up a million parcels a day.

Bosses say that although these are seasonal positions for the festive period, many of the roles could become permanent.

Executive chairman Dick Stead said: "Many of the vacancies are flexible and perfect for those who want to fit work around families, or who have retired but want to remain active and earn some extra cash. Others are full-time and we expect many people to stay on beyond December."

A special control tower has been established at the Owen Road sorting facility to oversee volume management, operational action and weather contingency over the winter. Operational hours have been extended and deliveries are being increased to seven days a week.

To apply for a vacancy at the Owen Road sorting office, call Blue Arrow on 0800 032 8487.

Postie who kept mail given suspended term

A POSTMAN who stockpiled letters containing wage slips, theatre tickets, hospital appointment cards and a cheque book has been spared an immediate prison sentence.

Craig Congrave collected 56 letters between April 2011 and February 2013, 14 of which had been opened and kept them behind his settee for up to three years, Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard.

Police found the haul in two Royal Mail packages while executing a drugs raid at his house in Tottenham Crescent, Kingstanding, on January 26.

The court heard Congrave, aged 28, who worked from the Great Barr delivery office and had been employed by the Royal Mail for seven and a half years, was suspended from work a day later and never returned.

Mr John Dove, prosecuting on behalf of the Royal Mail, said: "The items included hospital appointment cards, theatre tickets, a cheque book, wage slips and greetings cards.

Delayed

"The addressees would have been inconvenienced to a considerable degree by not receiving their mail."

Congrave had denied intentionally delaying the delivery of postal packets or mailbags, but was found guilty after a trial in October. He had told the court he suspected his ex-partner may have opened 14 of the letters found at his home.

Miss Kerendeep Garcha, defending, said Congrave had not intentionally delayed the posting of the letters.

Congrave, now a fitter earning £250 per week, was given a six month prison sentence suspended for 12 months. He was also ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work as part of a 12 month supervision order and pay costs of £1,000 plus an £80 victim surcharge.

Organisers planning for 2015 festival

THE team behind the first ever Black Country Festival are inviting applications from people hoping to host events in 2015.

Tens of thousands of people enjoyed hundreds of themed events marking official Black Country Day on July 14. Now organisers are planning for next year in a bid to attract even more visitors.

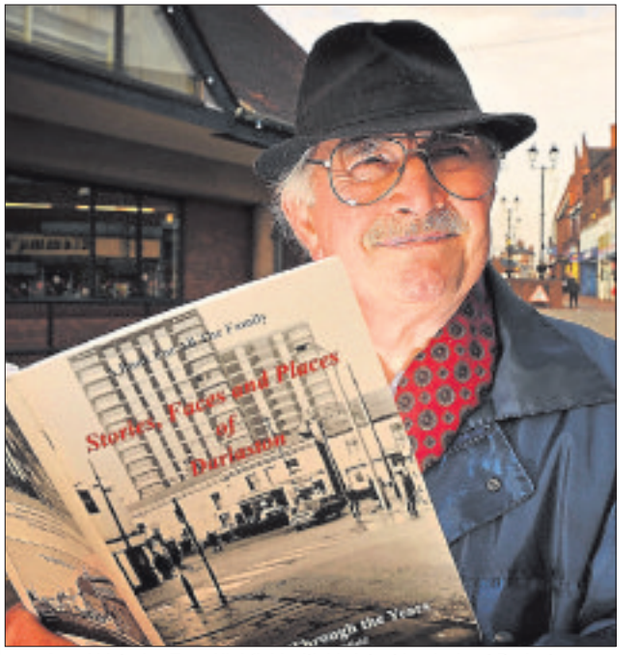
Committee member Stephen Pitts said: "We were delighted with the reaction of the public, not just at the showcase event in Dudley but at all the other events that went on throughout the four boroughs and particular the number of people who had their own Black Country themed parties.

Strong

"The backing the public has given the festival in its inaugural year has put us in a very strong position to approach various partners and councils across the Black Country to help put on something truly special next year."

Anyone with an act, stall or event they would like to be included in next year's festival should email info@blackcountryfestival.co.uk to contact the organising committee.

New chapter for historian



Local historian Tony Highfield with his latest book about Darlaston

A POPULAR historian has taken another trip down memory lane with the publication of his latest book.

Tony Highfield has now clocked up 20 releases over the years. His latest offering, Stories, Faces and Places of Darlaston, covers interesting tales from people who live in the town. Mr Highfield began writing the book in January.

The 72-year-old said: "It's a real trip down memory lane. I always start writing my books at the start of the year and have them finished in time for Christmas. It's a tradition to publish the book in time for Christmas. I've been doing this for over 20 years now."

First person stories in the book are penned by a shopkeeper and Mr Highfield himself.

Mr Highfield will be signing copies of his book at Darlaston Library on Saturday, from 10am to noon. It costs £3 and is on sale the library and Darlaston Post Office in Victoria Road.

Jobs hope after new machines purchased

JOBS are to be created at a Wednesbury manufacturing firm following a £562,000 investment.

RMP Products in Leabrook Road has bought two new metal cutting machines to enable it to increase its production.

The firm was supported by Lloyds Bank and also received funding from the the Regional Growth Fund.

One new job has so far been created at the business, with further opportunities expected in sales and inspection over the coming months.

A new apprentice is also set to be recruited to the business, which now employs 26 people and has an annual turnover of £5.5million.

Growth

Director Paul Dyche said: "Investing in these new machines is a significant step in our growth strategy, as it complements our current processes, allowing us to shorten lead times and increase production capacity.

"The support of Lloyds Bank has been instrumental in this process, and the business is now focusing on securing new business and expanding our presence in the offshore industry."

Petition over parking fees

A PETITION containing 2,000 names has been handed in to council chiefs over plans to introduce parking charges for shoppers for the first time.

Walsall Council wants to push for fees at free car parks across the borough in a bid to rake in up to £100,000.

The Willenhall Ay We Action Group launched the petition last month, saying charges will hit trade.

Shoppers face being hit with charges in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall town centres from next April.

Woman injured

A WOMAN in her 50s was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital after a three-car crash during rush-hour in Darlaston. It happened in Willenhall Street at around 7.50am last Thursday (November 20). She suffered minor hand injuries. No one else was injured.

MP labels 'bedroom tax' as shameful

THE Prime Minister should be 'ashamed' of the controversial 'bedroom tax', a Black Country MP has said.

David Winnick told David Cameron at Prime Minister's Questions that 'the hateful bedroom tax will be remembered just like the Tory Poll Tax'. The Walsall North MP added: "You should be ashamed that such a notorious tax came in on your watch."

The so-called bedroom tax relates to a cut in housing benefit for people in council or social housing if they have one or more spare bedrooms. The policy was intended to encourage people to trade down to smaller homes, freeing larger ones up for families,.

Mr Cameron replied: "Why it is right that people in private rented accommodation who are claiming housing benefit do not get a spare room subsidy but they think people who are living in council housing should get a spare room subsidy.

"The second question is why did you oppose £83 billion of reductions in welfare which has helped us to maintain spending on health and schools, while taking three million of the poorest people out of tax altogether?"

Safety first for children

A WALSALL opticians donated high-visibility vests to youngsters to mark Road Safety Week.

Specsavers, in High Street, Bloxwich, gave out vests to youngsters from Bloxwich Brownies, St John's Brownies, Elmore Green Primary School and St Peter's Catholic Primary School among others.

Store director Jagroop Uppal said: "Keeping in theme with this year's Road Safety Week message we wanted to give out the hi-vis vests to local children to help ensure their safety in the town."

Twitter advice

THE dos and don'ts of sending social network messages come under discussion in Walsall. Twitter Workshop for Small Businesses will be held on December 1 at the Talent Navigator Enterprise Hub, Navigation Street, from 10am. Tickets cost £45. Call 01922 642497.

Temporary closure after dead mice found

Health boss Khizar Hussain

A WALSALL shop was forced to temporarily close after two dead mice and mouse droppings were found.

FB Express Ltd in West Bromwich Street, Caldmore, was ordered to close by environmental health officers at Walsall Council last week following an inspection.

It was given the go-ahead to reopen last Wednesday morning following a clean up and stock reorganisation.

It is the latest shop to be ordered to close its doors after environmental health officers ruled it posed a risk to public health. Bosses have urged businesses to ensure their premises are clean and well organised with stock kept to manageable levels and off the floor to allow for thorough and regular inspection for any signs of pests.

Inspection

Two dead mice were found in the building and there were mouse droppings throughout indicating an infestation.

Health cabinet member, Councillor Khizar Hussain, said: "Environmental health officers have a duty to protect the public and as the number of recent closures in Walsall shows will not hesitate to take tough action where appropriate.

"Ultimately it is the responsibility of the business owner to ensure their premises are fit for purpose and that they are maintained to a standard which is appropriate to be serving and selling food from. I would urge businesses to ensure their premises are clean and stock is well organised and stored off the floor."

£60m drugs smuggling plot pair put behind bars

TWO men involved in a smuggling plot that saw £60 million worth of drugs brought into the UK have been jailed.

The pair, from Cheslyn Hay and Walsall, were among five put behind bars following a major nationwide and international investigation into the importation of cannabis, amphetamines and MDMA.

Arrests took place across the West Midlands region as well as in The Netherlands.

The drugs were brought into the UK from the Netherlands using legitimate hauliers – all of whom were unaware of the loads they were carrying before the drugs were taken to haulage yards, one in Walsall.

The yards were also unaware of what was happening. The parcels were separated and subsequently collected by organised crime groups from around the UK.

Amphetamines later seized by police had been disguised as cartons of takeaway food. Richard Dale, age 51, from Maybrook Industrial Estate, Walsall, and Peter Hillback, 42, from Charles Close, Cheslyn Hay, were both jailed at Birmingham Crown Court for their role in the operation.

The operation, which was launched in July 2013, saw a total of £13.5m worth of drugs seized, including more than 1000 kg of cannabis, 107 kg of MDMA and 64 kg of amphetamines.

Dale was jailed for 12 years for conspiracy to import class A drugs, conspiracy to import class B drugs, conspiracy to supply MDMA, conspiracy to supply amphetamine and conspiracy to supply cannabis.

He had denied all counts but was found guilty in September at Birmingham Crown Court. Hillback admitted the same charges and was given 14 years and four months in prison.

Richard Dale – 12 years

Peter Hillback – 14 years

Backyard brews up Christmas classics

With some of the festive ales they produce, owners Austen Morgan, of Walsall Wood, and Mike Bates, of Short Heath

A MICRO brewery has unveiled its range of festive ales as it aims to build on the success of a beer marking the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Bosses at the Backyard Brewhouse in Brownhills have put together two special Christmas brews – Kris Kringle and Bad Santa. The brewery is continuing to grow and had increased production 60 per cent year on year since being launched in 2008. And brewer Austen Morgan says 2015 is shaping up to be their busiest yet.

The Christmas beers are on sale at the brewery's pub The Fountain in Lower Forster Street, Walsall, and at scores of Wetherspoons across the Midlands. Bad Santa is a 6.8 per cent dark beer, while Kris Kringle is 4.3 per cent with orange and cinnamon flavours. Mr Morgan said: "Christmas is always quite a full-on period for us.

"The pubs are all getting their ranges of Christmas beers in and the shops are busy."

Staff at the brewery were forced to produce casks of the SRD beer to mark the anniversary of the war after more than 2,000 bottles were snapped up in weeks. The success of the SRD beer means it will now be brewed throughout the First World War 100-year commemorations until 2018.

The name SRD came from the letters stamped on bottles of rum sent to rations depots on the frontline.

It is not known exactly what the letters stand for, though suggestions have included Services Rum Diluted or Seldom Reaches Destination – as the rum was always drunk before soldiers got it. The brewery recently quadrupled its beer production after completing a £250,000 expansion.

Sign up for Santa Run

PARTICIPANTS are being urged to sign up for a Santa run next weekend. In aid of Acorns Children's Hospice, it takes place at Walsall Arboretum on Sunday, December 7.

Entry is £10 for adults and £5 for under-16s which includes a Santa suit and a medal. Under-sixes are free.

All Santa runners will be given vouchers for Birmingham Sea Life Centre. To register, visit www.acorns.org.uk/santa call 01564 82 5000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Mail beats delivery targets

MORE people in Walsall are receiving their poston time than the national average, says Royal Mail.

A total of 94.1 per cent of mail posted between April and September was delivered the next day. The target was 93.0 per cent.

Second class to be received within three working days also exceeded the national guidelines, reaching 98.9 per cent against a target of 98.5.

Geoff Braden, operations director, said: "Our postmen and women work exceptionally hard to deliver to these targets."

Land secured for village allotments

VILLAGERS in Essington can sign up for an allotment plot after land was secured in an £80,000 scheme.

The Bushbury Trust, which owns the land, gave the go-ahead for the two-acre site in High Hill after a report was presented by Essington Allotments Association.

It will be Essington's first allotments. Councillor David Clifft said the site would accommodate around 50 plots. Villagers can sign up in January.

Tickets on offer for psychic night

TICKETS are available for an over-18s psychic night at Bloxwich Community Centre.

Spiritualist medium Sandrea Mosses will appear on December 12 at 7.30pm, with a licensed bar and food available.

Tickets are £10, from from the Abbotts Street centre or from Blakenall Community Centre, in Blakenall Row. Or, buy five five and get the sixth free.

Decision to reject tip plan welcomed

COUNCILLORS have welcomed the rejection of a rubbish tip in Walsall.

The bid by AB Waste Management Ltd, for the works in Willenhall Lane near Dudley Fields and Beechdale was refused over noise, dust and smell fears.

Councillors Louise Harrison, Pattie Lane, and Tina Jukes all supported the decision.

Bid turned down

A WALSALL service station has been refused permission to open 24 hours a day amid noise and nuisance fears. Walsall planners rejected the bid by Primley service station, Wolverhampton Road.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A GROUP of cat owners have posted images on the internet allegedly proving that, if you create a circle on the floor, a cat will automatically sit inside it. So I made a circle of rope on the lounge floor and our old tabby pointedly stayed outside it and eventually sat down next to it. This proves the oldest feline rule of all. The more you want a cat to do something, the less it will.

I LOVE this email: "Receive an envelope from the NHS today containing two letters. One confirmed a hospital appointment. The other cancelled it. This is factual. I'm not clever enough to make this stuff up."

I HAVE an explanation for the curious case of the reader whose smartphone suddenly produced a text message from an optician shortly after she walked past the premises. It is something called proximity marketing. But all the descriptions I have seen stress that users have to opt-in to the system in order to receive messages. You don't recall opting-in? I would hazard a guess that it was somewhere in the terms and conditions, that vast mass of legal bumf that nobody ever bothers to read. In fact, let's have a National T&C Day when everybody refuses to sign up to anything on the internet without first thoroughly reading every single paragraph of the terms and conditions. The system would crash.

ON the bodge-it-yourself website DIYnot, the conversation turns to the difficulty of finding good tradespeople in London. A contributor in the capital writes enviously: "Outside London all the people are well suited to manual labour. They all wear wellingtons and drive to work on tractors." Yup, that's us.

STRANGE times. It used to be the rule that anyone becoming prime minister would be more unpopular during his term in Downing Street than at any other time in his life. How times change. Weird Ed is record-breakingly unpopular before he gets anywhere near No 10 and Tony Blair, the multi-millionaire bringer-of-peace, is even more detested today than when he was in residence.

THE tear-jerking Sainsbury's yuletide advert, set in the Christmas Truce of 1914, has obviously been working its sentimental magic. A contributor to one of the national newspapers implores us: "Should we not have compassion for the thousands of German soldiers, also sons, fathers and brothers?" I can see why someone might want to extend remembrance to the amiable, photogenic young German soldiers in the Sainsbury's ad. But what about their comrades who ransacked the Belgian city of Louvain, torched its priceless medieval library and executed hundreds of civilians, including women and children? Do they, too, deserve a place in our hearts and a chunk of our Sainsbury chocolate? And what about Hitler's death squads, or today's enemy, the Taliban and their fellow beheaders, the Islamic State? Are they all to be remembered with compassion, too? If not, why not? The moment we start extending compassion to all our enemies is the moment we put our soldiers on the same moral level as Jihadi John. Not in my name, thanks.

INCIDENTALLY, there's not much evidence that a football match was played between German and British soldiers during the 1914 truce. Most accounts describe the soldiers exchanging gifts, showing each other family photos and talking about football. No matter. The image of a football match is so powerful that it is remorselessly passing into history without the need for any historical evidence. It should have happened, so let us tell the kids it did happen.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Firm secures a second major deal

FOUNDRY and engineering group Chamberlin has won a major new contract worth more than £20 million over eight years.

The Walsall firm's contract with a leading European automotive industry components and parts supplier, which is not being named at this stage, was won after a rigorous competitive tender process. It is Chamberlin's second major deal within the space of a month. This new deal starts on January 1 and is expected to contribute initial revenues of a million euros for the firm up to March 31, 2016. The contract will replace a number of mature programmes at its Chuckery Road site, for the same customer.

The light castings foundry in Walsall will supply 16 different components for turbo charger bearing housings for car diesel engines. Chamberlin chief executive Kevin Nolan said: "I am delighted to announce this major contract win for our Walsall foundry. This business win confirms that the previous restructuring and import of new talent is delivering the service our global customers demand."

It comes after Chamberlin landed a contract worth £5.3m over the next four years also to supply turbo charger bearing housings for diesel engines in cars. That contract is expected to contribute revenue of £1.27m in the first year.

The group employs more than 400 across the Chamberlin and Hill sites in Walsall and Leicester; Russell Ductile Castings, Scunthorpe, and engineering businesses Exidor, Cannock, and Petrel, Birmingham.

The group, whose first foundry was built in Walsall in 1890, produces high-quality iron castings of up to 5,000 kilogrammes.

Police probe claims of youths shooting goose

YOUTHS killed a Canada goose after firing shots at a flock of birds at a Walsall beauty spot, it is claimed.

Police are investigating claims that four youths were seen on The Lea in Blakenall taking pot-shots at the birds. It is the latest example of anti-social behaviour at the spot where swans have also been the target of local yobs.

by Marion Brennan

Last month police stepped up patrols in a crackdown on youths wreaking havoc on off-road bikes.

Ken Wall, secretary of the Friends Around The Lea residents' group, condemned the shooting of the goose. He has reported the incident to Walsall Council.

"I was rang by another resident who witnessed the incident at about 6pm on Wednesday," he said. "At least one bird was killed, and possibly two. I went down there the following day and the carcass was there with a load of feathers next to it. I'm really disgusted. We don't want that sort of person using The Lea.

"We fought hard to stop developers building homes on the site but not to see this sort of thing take place. We're working with the local police and there have been improvements but this is definitely a setback."

A swan was found dead beside the canal on the south side of The Lea in January. It was originally thought that the bird had been attacked by a fox but environmental officers said gunshot pellets were found nearby.

Forty mopeds and quad bikes were seized by police at The Lea last month after neighbours said gangs were racing around the site, making their lives a misery.

Police say they expect even more to be seized in the coming weeks as they continue their campaign. They also say security needs to be tightened at Rough Wood Country Park after a spate of similar complaints.

In Doe Bank Park, Pheasey, four warning notices have been issued to scooter riders. CCTV cameras have been installed in Collingwood Drive and Beechey Close where there is access to Doe Bank park.

Blakenall neighbourhood policeman Sgt Jim Nixon has promised regular high visibility patrols on The Lea and surrounding fields.

Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett said Mr Wall's complaint would be looked into.

Village crematorium shortlist

The design of Essington Crematorium being spearheaded by Westerleigh Group

THE battle to build a new crematorium in South Staffordshire has intensified with four developers officially submitting detailed proposals to planners.

The sites in Essington, Perton, Wergs, and Four Crosses near Cannock, are now being looked at by officers at South Staffordshire Council with decisions expected early in the New Year. Leader Brian Edwards said that the authority would have to look at each scheme on their individual merit meaning, in theory, all four could be approved. "We could approve all four or we could approve none," he said.

"They have to be looked at individually."

He said he could not comment further because he did not want to prejudice the council's decisions or forfeit his right to speak when the schemes are discussed formally.

But MP Gavin Williamson has described the situation as 'bonkers'.

He said: "In my view we seem to have had a bandwagon effect where one scheme was being talked about and then suddenly there has been an explosion of proposed sites.

"We have gone from a situation where over the past 40 years there was no proven or significant need to suddenly people claiming there is a huge need.

"I think it has all got a bit bonkers. I have not got a desire for any of them."

There are currently no crematoriums in South Staffordshire.

The scheme in Essington is being spearheaded by the Westerleigh Group and has met with opposition from villagers and residents in Bloxwich.

The 11.6 acres site in Broad Lane would see between four and five services a day.

Council chiefs in Staffordshire have agreed to lease the land to the firm for 75 years.

Archdeacon is named

REVEREND Dr Susan Weller has been appointed Archdeacon of Walsall by the Bishop of Lichfield.

Dr Weller grew up in East Yorkshire and studied botany and zoology at Leeds University, followed by a PhD in metal pollution from anti-fouling paint.

She worked in Plymouth, developing ways to monitor metal pollution in rivers before being ordained.

Dr Weller will be collated as Archdeacon of Walsall on January 11, 2015, at Lichfield Cathedral.

Right Reverend Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield, said: "I am delighted to welcome Dr Sue Weller."

Appeal by hospice to hit target on funds

A CHARITY which supports children and their families has launched its Christmas appeal to raise £60,000.

Acorns Children's Hospice wants to reach the target to help meet the ongoing cost of the care it provides.

Acorns provides specialist care and support for poorly children at its hospice in Walstead Road, Walsall.

Director of care Emma Aspinall said specialist nursing was essential to provide the necessary care for life-limited children across the region.

"The children we care for come to us with very complex and challenging conditions and our team of specialist nurses are their 24 hours a day, every day of the year including Christmas day," she said.

"We need people to donate whatever they can in order for us to continue providing the care for our children that we know is so vital to the families we support.

"Just a small donation goes such a long way and can make such a difference, not just for the festive season but for the next 18 months if we hit our target."

For more information visit www.acorns.org.uk/christmasappeal or the www.justgiving.com/acorn-schristmasappeal page.

Flood cash facing cut

CASH to prevent flooding across the borough faces being cut by Walsall council.

Around £90,000 of funding for road drainage and stream maintenance is poised to be removed over the next two years.

A report states: "Keeping streams and brooks free flowing and ensuring that highway drainage is in a reasonable condition reduces the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall.

"Less maintenance will mean residents, businesses and road users are placed at greater risk of injury and damage to their property."

Vegetable ABC

RAY Bassett will talk about the ABC of Vegetables on December 2. Streetly Horticultural Society will follow this with a Mistletoe, Myths and Legend presentation on January 6. The society meets every first Tuesday at the community centre, Foley Road East, at 7.45pm.

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A drop in allowances is agreed by council

SENIOR councillors in Walsall will lose thousands of pounds after plans to reduce allowances were approved.

Walsall Council agreed to the lower payments after being put forward by the ruling Labour group to help save more than £80,000.

The plan was backed at a full council meeting last week. It will see payments decrease for the deputy leader and cabinet members. The council leader's allowances will drop by more than £5,000 to £21,694.

Concern was raised by the Conservative group who claimed councillors deserve to be rewarded and the previously agreed allowances had been suggested by an independent remuneration panel.

But it comes as the authority needs to make huge cuts to save £86m over the next four years. The lower allowances were approved by a majority.

Council leader Sean Coughlan said: "We are in a situation where everything around us is being cut to the bone. It is a gesture so we are all in this together."

Tory group leader Mike Bird said councillors who do the job correctly should be paid for the work they do. He added it does come at a cost to family life.

Festive trees go on display

A FESTIVAL of Christmas trees takes places at church in Rushall next weekend. It will be opened at 11am on Saturday, December 6 at the Church of Christ The King.

Local companies have sponsored decorated trees and the display will be open during the day.

Hot turkey sandwiches and other seasonal refreshments will be served. There will also be a cake stall and some seasonal games.

Residents will gather for Singing round the Christmas tree on Friday, December 19 in the village square at 7pm.

Seasonal fair

FESTIVE goodies will be on sale – and Santa will be in attendance – at a church in Walsall this weekend.

Coalpool Methodist Church in Coalpool Lane is hosting its festive fair on Saturday (November 29) from 11am-1pm. Admission is free.

Stars strictly made up by students' work

Strictly stars Iveta and Natalie with students

STUDENTS from the Black Country showcased their talents by helping to give a makeover to dancing celebrities.

Hair and beauty students from Walsall College gave the brush over to Strictly Come Dancing stars Iveta Lukosiute and Natalie Lowe as well as BBC sport pundit Robbie Savage.

This was before the stars took to the main stage at The Skills Show at the NEC in Birmingham.

The skills and careers event offers hands-on experience to to inspire and provide information and advice for young people of all ages, and provide an amazing showcase for the nation's vast variety of skills.

Actor, TV and radio presenter Adil Ray of Citizen Khan, actress Sarah Solemani from Bad Education, newsreader Nick Owen and a number of BBC radio DJs also had their hair and make-up done.

They then either performed on stage or took part in the spotlight talk programme giving visitors an insight into their vocational careers.

Level Three beauty students, Jodie Freeman, aged 20, and Aimee Hodson, 22, along with hairdressing students Hope Breakwell, 23, and Thomas Doyle, 25, were selected to represent Walsall College.

More than 70,000 visitors are believed to have descended on this year's three-day show as vocational routes through education were promoted to the wider public.

Walsall College principal and chief executive, Jatinder Sharma, said they were really pleased talented students were able to showcase the knowledge and skills used in today's workplace and inspire visitors to think about the range of career paths opened up by vocational training.

New rule on freeman title after Noddy cash criticised

COUNCILLORS have been criticised for spending £13,000 to make Noddy Holder a Freeman – and will now need to give their blessing before awarding the honour.

Concerns were raised after the title was bestowed on the Slade frontman. Formal guidelines for awarding the Freedom of the Borough have now been agreed by council chiefs.

Noddy receives his honour

A policy has been drawn up and approved by full council which will see group leaders meet and give unanimous support.

A special meeting will then be held where two-thirds of members present need to agree.

An initial protocol went before the Full Council earlier this autumn but a decision was deferred to allow for the guidelines to be redrawn. This followed concerns that the Freedom of Walsall could not be given to someone no longer living in the borough.

Exceptional

The final draft has now been approved with the honour for those who have made an 'exceptional contribution.'

It states: "The award should be strictly limited to those who have made a most exceptional contribution to the community of Walsall and who have demonstrated 'service above self'.

"Any recommendation to confer the honour should be a unanimous decision."

The council defended the cost of granting the honour to Noddy, which covered the scrolls, signwriting, hospitality, flowers and recording the event to put on YouTube.

They said the music legend, who was born in Caldmore, had promoted Walsall all over the world.

Revival of lodge bid

COUNCILLORS are reviving plans to refurbish Barr Beacon lodge in Walsall and create a visitor centre.

A £20,000 scheme is being planned by Walsall Council, subject to securing external funding. It is part of the capital programme for 2015/16 and comes after a failed bid for funding more than seven years ago.

Plans for a visitor centre were part of a larger £2.3m project in Beacon Road as part of the Black Country Urban Park application.

Leisure chief councillor Khizar Hussain said: "Barr Beacon is one of Walsall's most recognisable landmarks and we are constantly looking at ways of raising its profile and encouraging people to visit the site."

Traders pitch in for Christmas market

Matt Cliff, from The Coffee House and Nicole Quinn, from Wilko, get set for Brownhills Christmas Market

ENOUGH traders have signed up to enable a festive market to return to Brownhills.

The two-day festive-themed event will take place around Ravenscourt precinct, off High Street and include a range of crafts, jewellery and hot food.

The traditional Brownhills Market in Silver Street was closed for good after 40 years in 2011.

Walsall Council revealed last month that a first Christmas market was being planned on December 13 and 14 subject to there being at least 20 stalls. These have been confirmed and organisers say up to 40 traders could be accommodated. Depending on its success, it could prove to be a regular event.

Organiser Nikki Rolls, from the council's district centre management team, said: "We're delighted to confirm that we have enough traders to hold Brownhills' first ever festive market.

"We're really pleased with the response. At least 20 stalls have now been confirmed, with traders selling handmade jewellery, bespoke and novelty Christmas gifts, crafts, beauty products, cupcakes and homemade cakes, unique Christmas wreaths and a hot chocolate counter."

Stall holders interested in supporting the event must bring their own facilities including tables, chairs and marquee. Lighting is desired. For details call Nikki on 07904 264920 or email RollsN@walsall.gov.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Designers set for event at airport

TALENTED artists and designers are set for a seasonal event at Aldridge Airport next weekend.

A free Art and Design Fair is taking place on Saturday, December 6 featuring festive, handmade gift ideas as well as the chance to try their own hands at crafting activities.

Designer Gemma Ince, who has helped to organise the event, said: "It will be a great opportunity to see the diverse talents of local artists, designers and makers, as well as the opportunity to buy beautiful art and unique handmade gifts."

Three people hurt as vehicles crash

THREE people were taken to hospital with suspected neck injuries following a four vehicle crash in Wednesbury.

A Rover 25, BMW 1 Series, Fiat Punto and a van collided in Wood Green Road at about 6.45pm last Thursday, November 20.

Emergency services attended and a woman and 15-year-old boy, who were passengers in the Rover 25, were both taken to Manor Hospital. Another woman from the BMW was also taken there.

Owners warned in car crime spate

CAR owners are warned to remove their valuables and secure their vehicles after a spate of break-ins.

Nine cases of vehicle crime were reported in the Rushall and Shelfield areas in October, five of which were thefts from, prompting the police warning.

The Rushall and Shelfield neighbourhood team is also encouraging drivers to park in a safe and secure area.

Official switch-on for church festival

BROWNHILLS Methodist Church hosts a Christmas tree festival next month.

It is on December 12 and 13, from 9am to 3pm with a switch-on ceremony on December 11 at 7.30pm.

On December 13, a mini-market in the church hall from 9am to 1.30pm will aid the Methodist Homes for the Aged and Teenage Cancer Trust.

Artwork on show

AROUND 200 works of art are on display in Walsall. Walsall Society of Artist's 65th anniversary exhibition runs until Sunday (November 30) on the fourth floor of the New Art Gallery, in Gallery Square.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

CHRISTMAS is big business. This has been the case for years, of course.

Without it the high street and anyone in retail would likely suffer a huge dip in takings as the run-up to the festive period offers an enormous boost to see them through the leaner times of the year.

Parents are determined to give their children the best.

They want the must-have toys on Christmas Day but they also want to offer a magical experience and build a lifetime of memories.

All this the creators of The Magical Journey, based at The Belfry hotel, knew when they were creating their winter wonderland with the help of celebrity interior designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

Everything about it and the people and organisations involved suggested high quality.

Complaints of lacklustre decorations, unwrapped presents and high prices resulted in the wise decision to temporarily close it, refund tickets for the first few days and spend time getting it right.

We hope it all opens again as planned and that everything runs smoothly.

Cautionary

Yet it is a cautionary tale for anyone in business at this time of year and a timely reminder that for many consumers Christmas is simply too important to get things wrong.

The lights are going on all over the West Midlands and are beginning to brighten up what would otherwise be a grim and depressing time of year, with the nights getting ever longer.

Even so, there will also be tensions as people crowd into shopping centres, struggle with bags and possibly even quarrel over whatever items are going to be in huge demand this year.

Customers of The Magical Journey have every right to complain and to have demanded the situation be rectified after it failed to meet the expectations of the ticket price.

Any business that does not deliver what has been promised to this extent will suffer the consequences of an online backlash, as has happened at The Belfry.

Even so, we should also remember the enormous effort that is put in to the festive season by many people working behind the scenes to give everyone a welcome and much needed bit of relaxation and cheer.

We are about to enter the season of goodwill, after all.

When things go wrong they must be put right.

But when things go exactly to plan, a thank you to those who have spread a little Christmas joy never goes amiss.

Thomas Foden with his daughter Irene Harper

Stafford security guards syndicate celebrate their win

Thomas and Rita Naylor with Joanna Lumley

Lotto success for big money draw

The National Lottery has proved just the ticket for its lucky winners in 20 years **PETE MADELEY** reports

IT is 20 years old and created more 3,700 millionaires – including several from the West Midlands – and raised billions for good causes. Happy birthday, National Lottery.

Since the first draw was on November 19, 1994, it has become a national institution. Twenty new millionaires were created on the weekend of its anniversary.

Among the Midlands big winners are Tom Naylor, who grew up in Wednesbury and became the Black Country's biggest lottery winner when he scooped a colossal £15.5m windfall on the Lottery Extra game in 2001.

Mr Naylor who worked as a lorry driver in West Bromwich, won the jackpot in the week the National Lottery was celebrating its seventh anniversary.

The 58-year-old said he continued to play the lottery several times a week – and still celebrates the occasional win.

Spending

He said: "I have the same set of numbers I play and since the big win I have had quite a few other wins. Obviously the amounts are much smaller but it still gives me that same feeling.

"I don't know if it is just luck. Some people play for years and never win a penny. People ask me why I carry on playing after winning so much money, but it's something I have always loved doing so why stop?"

Mr Naylor and his wife Rita celebrated their win by lavishing £375,000 on a plush barn conversion in Wheaton Aston and embarking on a spending spree involving lavish foreign holidays and luxury motors The win allowed the pair to live out their wildest dreams, which for Mr Naylor included replacing his clapped out old Ford Granada with a top of the range Jaguar. They moved to the Staffordshire countryside from a modest £50,000 three-bedroom semi in Birmingham Street, Darlaston.

Winners from the Travel West Midland Oak Lane Depot syndicate

He went on to buy a fleet of six mean machines: a limited edition Jaguar XJR saloon, and XKR Convertible Jaguar, a Jaguar XJ2 20, a Bentley Continental, Aston Martin DB9 and Range Rover Discovery. The couple also took part in the star studded Bullrun automotive rally in 2007, a thrilling 3,000 mile road race from Montreal to Key West in Florida in just seven days.

Rita, who used to work at Walsall leather firm Daines & Hathaway, said despite the win – and her penchant for shopping – she was just as likely to be found rooting around the shelves of M&S and Next.

"I'm not bothered about designers at all," she said. "If it looks nice, I'll have it."

Eighty-year-old Thomas Foden and his daughter Irene Harper, then 60, from Tipton, won a share of the UK's first Lotto quadruple rollover jackpot in October 2012.

But instead of splashing out on mansions, they plumped for matching bungalows in Sedgley.

Former Tarmac construction worker Mr Foden said the win hadn't changed him: "I am still doing exactly the same thing.

"I mix with the same chaps. I don't boast about what I've got. It's nice to have the money. It's nice to know that I've got it if I need it.

"But as long as I have my meals and can go to the pub, I am happy."

Mr Foden said his priority was to make sure his four grandchildren – Carl, Simon, Claire and Helen – were looked after.

He has also shared the money with his daughter Freda and two brothers, Bill and Ray.

"It has not gone to my head. I have not changed my life at all," he said.

The region has seen some big syndicate winners as well.

Richer

In 2003, a 10 strong syndicate at a West Bromwich residential home scooped £1.9m.

Six years later, the town struck it rich again when a lucky 13 bus workers at Travel West Midlands's depot in Oak Lane, West Bromwich, scooped £105,909 after matching five numbers plus the bonus ball.

They'd only been in it to win it for 13 months, before syndicate leader Harpreet Singh suggested they play the Wednesday draw and the move paid off, with each member becoming £8,146.85 richer.

In 2005, six security guards at Areva T&D in Stafford sat on their winning ticket for four days unaware they had won just over £10,000 each in the January 1 draw. They matched five numbers and the bonus ball to land a £61,111 win.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

AMID the anger over the planned closure of police station front desks, I have to feel a little bit sorry for David Jamieson.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was elected into the role at enormous cost and on a measly low turnout.

At £3.7 million and serving an electorate of about two million people it was one of the biggest and most expensive by-elections ever. Yet while Labour's Mr Jamieson won a decisive victory with more than 50 per cent of the votes cast, it was not the greatest moment for democracy.

Barely one in 10 people bothered to vote for who they wanted to fill a role few even understood.

It showed that, almost two years on from when the role was created, not that many people wanted to accept the offer of greater political and democratic accountability within the force.

This week a lot of people read the name David Jamieson. MPs from his own party are demanding he change a plan to shut the front desks of 27 police stations and reduce the opening hours of others.

The argument in favour is that few people go to the police station in person now, preferring instead to communicate by phone or internet. But, inevitably, the talk turns to the £3 million saving, coming as it does at a time of deep cuts in police funding.

If there was no police and crime commissioner in the first place, there would have been no election and therefore no cost to the taxpayer. In short, that's another year's worth of front desks staying open.

And before anyone gets all pedantic and points out that the election costs are met by the Home Office and the front desks by the police, just remember it's all public money. The source of it, whether central or local government, is you.

Where I feel especially sorry for David Jamieson is how isolated he now appears within his own party. Of course his colleagues in Parliament are keeping things professional. But they are all agreed this is a bad idea.

They put on a united front by blaming the Government for the cuts, but the final decision on how to deal with them rests with the Commissioner.

If he does give in to the demands of Westminster politicians it would call into question the whole point of the role. After all, why have a locally-elected police commissioner if he changes his mind after petitions and letters from MPs?

When Dudley Labour MP Ian Austin brought up the plan with William Hague in the Commons he was just told how satisfied people have been with the police, effectively pushing responsibility back up to Mr Jamieson in his office in Birmingham.

The review of front desks was started by Mr Jamieson's predecessor Bob Jones, whose sudden death triggered the by-election.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Care shown at remembrance service

ON November 9 in Darlaston we held our Remembrance Services at our parish church and War Memorial. In all the years I have attended the service I have never seen so many there from the young to not so young. It reflects the character of the people of the Darlaston area who always show their care.

There was also a first rate turn out at the War Memorial on November 11 for our Service of Remembrance even though it was a cold and wet day.

I would like to thank Jeffery Johnson who organised the sale of poppies and wreaths and is our bugler, all our poppy sellers, Asda who made space in the store for the poppy sales, the Reverend Liz Jones who presided on the services, the Air Cadets who were as smart and well drilled as ever, the Girl Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs. Our MP Valerie Vaz attended both Walsall and our Darlaston ceremonies and the police again did an excellent job.

BILL MADELEY MBE, President Walsall &District Branch, British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association

Pressure on staff at hospitals

READING the terrible tragedy of the nurse who found there was no one who was listening to him at the Manor Hospital – I can certainly agree with that.

For all of management's big words about offering support and putting in place stress training – which was only done as a rush measure after the events, it is not surprising one bit. I blame the management for the stress that staff are under.

Lack of staff, vulnerable patients left uncared for due to not filling request to cover sickness, people going through the indignity of being prepared in toilets for theatre just to save them from cancelling their operations, the idiotic emphasis on cleaning wards – further reducing time to care, and the biggest stress factor leaving us to deal with hostile relatives who react to such circumstances.

Pressures are being brought to bear on staff constantly. Sooner or later I pray that someone else does not feel this way.

S STROUD
Wednesbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

What will happen to England now?

WHAT happens in England now? The country watched how all the main political parties stuck together en masse to support the independence 'no' vote in the Scottish referendum.

They even allowed Gordon Brown, ex-Prime Minister and a Scotsman and the man mainly responsible for the 'Scottish Claim of Right' that led us here, offer the Scots terms of agreement for a 'no' vote.

How differently these parties reacted when the Scots accepted this agreement, no mass support from them for England to receive anything like this devolution settlement. The Conservatives thought a consideration was necessary after they thought the offer had highlighted how England was being treated unfairly. It is surprising that any political party noticed this when you consider that England has been treated unfairly by all mainstream political parties since New Labour's devolution programme of 1998.

The English don't believe these political parties, through self-interest, have any intention of tending to England's grievances with anything like the vigour they fought for Scotland's.

Any talk of regional government in any form by any political party or politicians without first giving England and the English nation national recognition should be fought against if England is to survive.

J STANHOPE, West Midlands Campaign for an English Parliament

Disbelief at lighting plan

I AM astounded by reports that Walsall Council are to pay £270,000 a year to light up prominent parts of parks in the Walsall Area.

I have three children, one of whom has special needs and attends a special school.

As she reached 13 the buddy system she used became null and void and we had to fight again to get her a buddy for three hours a week. This fantastic lady comes along and takes my daughter out helping her to become more independent and confident.

On November 7 I received a phone call telling me that my daughter can now only have her buddy during term times because of cost-cutting measures.

You can imagine my disbelief when I realised that lighting up a park is more important that the quality of life of all three of my children, it beggars belief.

F SMITH, Willenhall

Get our police on the streets

WITH shocking news that the West Midlands Police have to find £100m cuts, people are rightly concerned about how a crime fighting force is to be maintained.

Apparently, an external consultancy firm – who have never been on the beat – has been hired to write a blueprint for our police future structure and services. We want the police on our streets not sitting in partnership meetings or wasting our money on number crunchers. You don't crack crimes in talk shops.

DOUG JAMES
Walsall councillor

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Schoolgirl's X Factor treat for fitness coach

THE fitness coach who has helped a schoolgirl to overcome an horrific attack will be her special guest when she visits the X Factor live show next weekend.

Eleven-year-old Renee-Mai Bolter stole judge Simon Cowell's heart when he presented her with a bravery award last month at the televised Pride of Britain ceremony.

The award was presented as a result of the youngster's actions when she was subjected to a terrifying hostage ordeal at her family home, in Delves, Walsall, at the age of just seven.

She has been recovering from the emotional effects of the incident with the help of exercise sessions at Bloxwich Leisure Centre led by fitness tutor Penny Evans, who works in the Fitzone gym at the High Street premises. Penny instructs groups in using the treadmill, cycles and lifting machines, and in swimming.

Renee-Maul Bolter, aged 11, with fitness instructor Penny Evans

Captive

Renee-Mai, her family and Penny will attend the live finals on Saturday, December 6. Simon invited the Yew Tree Primary School pupil to see the show when he and the X Factor judges Louis Walsh, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and hosts Dermot O'Leary and Sarah-Jane Crawford presented her with the Child of Courage trophy.

Renee-Mai was violently attacked when held captive with her mother Katie, aged 29, and sister Lexi, then eight-months-old for several hours by a 54-year-old man in 2011. But her quick thinking and calm actions helped protect her family.

Her grandmother Sonja Bolter, also of Walsall, said: "She started going to the gym to help take her mind off what happened to the family, to shift her thoughts and focus onto something positive. Penny has been working with her and has been an absolute inspiration.

"She is a very caring and remarkable person. It's amazing to see her at work and what she does for the children and disabled people who she helps. She is definitely better than she was before she went to the gym.

"Penny helps her when she gets on the treadmill and her swimming has also really improved. Her confidence has got a lot better as a result."

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Enterprising offer for businesses

Councillor Mohammad Nazir with Dogan Dogan, owner of hellofoto booths at The Talent Navigator Enterprise Hub

FREE membership to a facility for a start-up business is on offer in Walsall. The offer, worth about £2,500 each, has come from the Talent Navigator Enterprise Hub, launched in January to help freelancers, start-ups and social ventures to develop and expand.

The venue is equipped to provide space for up to 40 entrepreneurs to use on a 12-month membership basis. As part of a link-up with the local authority's Walsall Works employment programme, the Hub is offering memberships for six entrepreneurs who can benefit from one-to-one support, incubation space, access to meeting room facilities and access to an established network of businesses.

Visit www.talentnavigator.co.uk or contact Akshay Parikh on 07967 471395.

HomeServe customer boost

DOMESTIC emergency insurance company HomeServe says it expects to add an extra 300,000 customers in the UK by the end of its 2014-2015 financial year.

The business, which has its head office at Green Lane in Walsall, also saw a recovery in pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September.

It was up from £600,000 a year ago to £25.3 million although revenue was only slightly up from £241.3m to £241.7m. UK income was £7m down at £120.2m. There was also a recovery in total customer numbers from 5.1m to 5.9m, although in the UK it was down from 2.2m to 2.1m. International customer numbers were up 31 per cent to 3.8m.

Delivering

Chief executive Richard Harpin, said the UK business was on track to acquire around 300,000 gross new customers in the year.

"Across the Group we continue to focus on delivering consistently high levels of customer service," he added.

It expects UK customers numbers to stabilise at just over two million.

HomeServe, which also operates in the United States, France, Spain, Italy and Germany, said its policy retention rate in the UK was 82 per cent in the six months.

The UK business is also making good progress with its connected home strategy offering smart thermostat devices to HomeServe customers.

The company employs around 1,100 people in Walsall.

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Sikh community in £30k charity boost

Members of Sikh community take part in a 15-mile walk

THE Sikh community in Walsall and Willenhall have raised more than £30,000 for a children's charity in just five years. A whopping £24,700 has been raised for BBC Children in Need in four years and this year fundraisers smashed their £30,000 target.

Members of the Sikh community took part in a variety of fundraising activities and sponsored challenges to raise the phenomenal amount for the worthwhile cause.

Chetan Singh, BBC Children in Need Sikh events 2014 volunteer said: "So far this year the group of charity fundraisers have raised £7,000 by organising a sponsored 15 -mile walk, a special Gurdwara (Sikh Temple) singing service and a number of car washes."

The events were organised by the Sikh Youth Group in Walsall and Sikh Federation UK. They were supported by the Sikh Gurdwaras and Sadh Sangat, local Sikh communities in Walsall and Willenhall.

Members took part in a sponsored walk starting at Willenhall Gurdwara and finished in Smethwick. Those taking part stopped off at Sikh temples on the way to collect donations and raised £1900. A total of 95 walkers took part raised over £4,500 in sponsorship.

Deadline is March for completion of housing

WORK on hundreds of new homes at five sites across Walsall as part of a £42 million project will be completed in March, developers have revealed.

Walsall Housing Group, the organisation which runs the borough's council homes, launched the work to tackle a property shortage in the borough.

by Deborah Hardiman

In April work started to put up more than 300 new premises in Bloxwich, Brownhills, Willenhall, and Moxley in partnership with construction firm Kier Partnership Homes. A total of 338 homes will be built by WHG and the developers in Somerfield Road, Bloxwich; Pennine Way, Short Heath, Willenhall; Wessex Close, Brownhills; and Harrowby Road, Moxley.

There will be 234 properties in Moxley near Darlaston, of which 75 will be rented and 159 for sale. The remainder will be spread across the other sites.

Work is making progress at all five sites and the residential scheme will all be completed by March. As part of the development Kier has set up an apprenticeship programme that has provided around 20 posts.

At the time, bosses at the housing group said it was the the biggest development programme it had undertaken and demonstrated a significant shift in the scale of its future development activity. But it comes as work was due to start this month on building 412 new homes in Blakenall.

Derelict land will be transformed as part of a £50 million pound development by The Walsall Housing Group scheme and will bring 177 affordable homes and 235 private homes to the area. The multi- million pound Goscote Lane regeneration development will be built on land off Shakespeare Crescent, Keats Road and Chaucer Road.

The four-year project received objections from the Canal and River Trust who raised concerns over the impact the new build will have on the Wyrley and Essing-

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Calls for U-turn as police stations set for closure

THREE of the four main police stations in Walsall are to close to the public amid £3 million cuts, the force has revealed.

The front counters at Walsall, Aldridge and Willenhall are among 27 across the West Midlands earmarked to shut, with 94 of 170 jobs at risk.

However, Bloxwich will continue to be available to the public between 8am and 10pm.

Steps are already being taken to close Walsall Police Station in Green Lane with some teams moving to the Civic Centre and others to Bloxwich.

Earlier this autumn, plans to shut the Willenhall base and transfer operations to Darlaston were revealed amid the need to make savings due to Government cuts.

The police station at Willenhall

The Walsall Police Station building

Aldridge police station is among those set to close to the public

Internet

Police chiefs say the proposals to shut front counters follow an independent review which shows the majority of the public no longer visit stations and instead make phone calls, use the internet and social media to contact officers.

This has led to concerns of an increase in crime across Walsall, and calls to keep stations available to the public.

Walsall North MP David Winnick said: "The argument being put forward by the police is that people tend to ring up rather than visit -- I don't accept that.

"I will be taking to the chief constable and the police and crime commissioner to ask them to reconsider. It is unwelcome news."

Three front offices in Sandwell, three in Dudley and two in Wolverhampton will close with others seeing reduced hours. Some front offices could close within months with ones currently manned by PCSOs such as Wednesbury expected to be first to go.

It costs the force £5.5m to run the counters. Chiefs insist there will be buzzer systems at the front entrance to stations to enable the public to contact them.

Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes said: "The decision has not been taken lightly. The simple fact is front offices are hugely underused and cost millions each year to keep open."

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, added: "I have written to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner asking him to review his decision.This will take away a direct connection between the public and the police."

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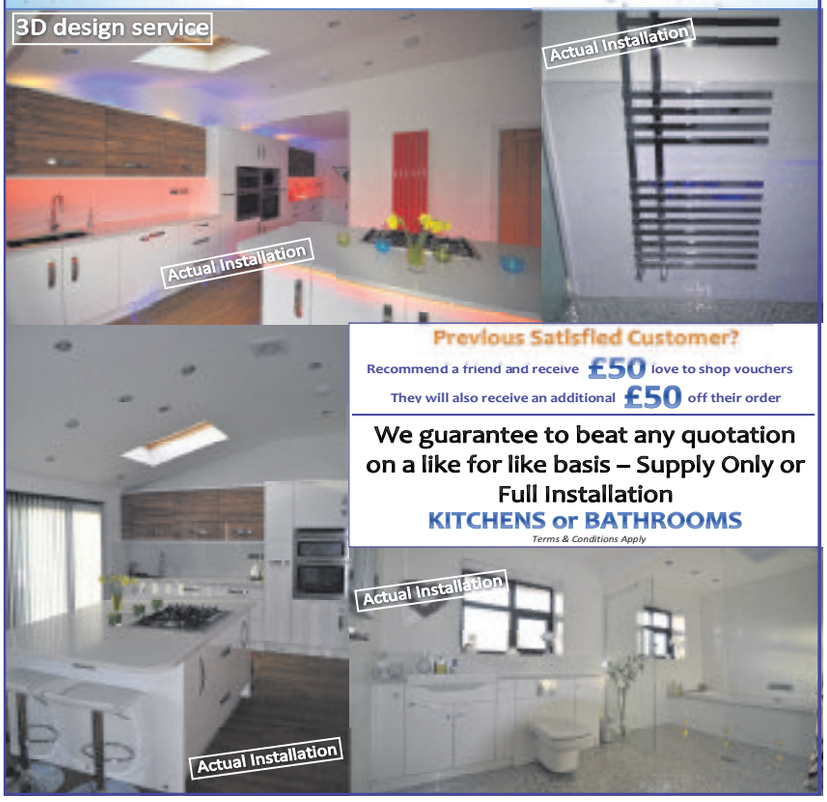

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Neighbours, from left, Steven Power, 18-month-old Chloe Power, Suzy Jones, Karen O'Hara and Craig

Neighbours angry over children's home plans

NEIGHBOURS in a quiet cul-de-sac say they are furious that a semi-detached house is to be turned into a residential children's home.

But the man behind the plans insists that residents have nothing to worry about. Darren Smallman, director of Albrighton Care, has been given permission to use his property in Bridge Avenue, Cheslyn Hay, as an Ofsted-registered care home.

The property will house two youngsters up to 18, with a maximum of four carers working there at any one time.

The plans were approved by South Staffordshire Council planning authority earlier this year after chief executive Steve Winterflood wrote to residents to explain there was no basis on which the plans could be rejected.

He said: "What has been applied for, falls within the existing planning permission or permitted use. In this case the council's clear view is that there was no material change of use.

The back of the house

Concerns

"That view was reached on the basis that the usual expected use for a domestic dwelling could well include six persons at the property.

"The real concerns that have been raised are ones that do not relate to planning issues but rather relate to the Ofsted registration and the issues of crime and disorder."

Residents say they are concerned about the behavioural problems of the youngsters. Karen O'Hara, who lives next door to the house, said: "Residents have been kept in the dark about what is going on right on our doorstep. We have had to fight for the information we have received. This is not a suitable area, it is a quiet residential street. We have now raised our concerns with Ofsted. We do not want this."

Mr Smallman said: "The home is providing a homely environment for children with severe and profound special needs. Children who are extremely vulnerable and need 24/7 care to ensure their needs are being met and not at risk of harm.

"Children will receive a high level of staffing in accordance to their individual care plan and risk assessments implemented by the homes manager."

Mr Smallman added that residents had been informed of all developments and he had been 'open and honest' about the plans. The property is being fully renovated and is expected to be ready for use early in 2015.

Tea up to help church project

CREAM teas will be served when a Walsall church holds a festive fundraising event towards its £57,000 building project.

Delves Baptist Community Church will host a Christmas Cream Tea next Saturday that will feature stalls selling handbags, handmade crafts, gifts stall, a beautician and refreshments. Doors at the hall will be open at 1.30pm.

On December 6, the Bath Street Band will entertain at a Yuletide concert with music and readings at 7pm.

This will be followed by the official opening of the newly-built disabled toilets at the Bell Lane premises by Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz on January 17 at 11.30am.

Worshippers also want to build an extension to create a new baby changing area, counselling rooms and storage areas for chairs and books.

They have already raised more than £8,000 towards the work at the centre led by minister Rev Ruth Wood.

Fundraising events organiser Sara Beckley says: "Money is still coming in steadily and we have not only raised money through events but also through donations."

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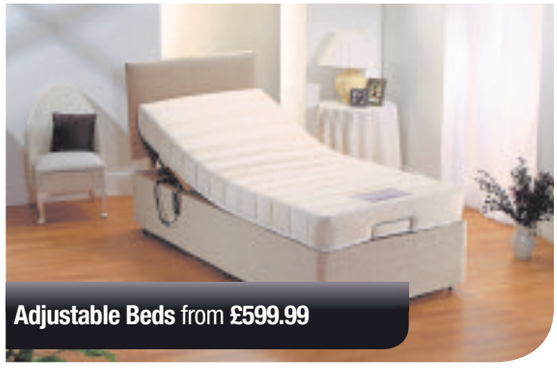

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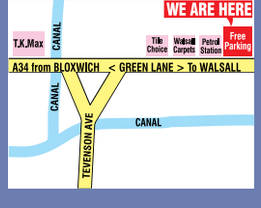

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Real Faith in the family across five generations

TAKING it in turns to cuddle a gurgling baby, this looks like a typical happy family scene.

But there are five generations here – and it could all have been so different after Faith Arrowsmith was born two-and-a-half months premature.

She is now four months old and has recently been discharged from hospital. All five generations rarely get to meet up, but they made the effort to catch a glimpse of Faith, who has battled back from an operation on her bowels, which had not developed. The family is led by 88-year-old Olive Hemmings, from Pleck, who has nine children, 40 grandchildren and the same number of great-grandchildren.

Faith is her first great-great-grandchild - and weighing at 6lb she is a picture of health that gives no clues to the problems of recent months after she was born at just 2lb 9oz. Mrs Hemmings's eldest daughter Sandra Gibson, 68, of Brownhills, said: "I think we are very lucky to have so many of us together.

"It has been a tough few months but everyone is OK and all we can do is just keep going." Faith's parents Laura Townsend, 23, and her fiance Ashley Arrowsmith also joined the family gathering, before they all headed into Walsall town centre to do some Christmas shopping.

They were joined by Mrs Hemmings's granddaughter Debbie Townsend, 46. Faith needs to go back to Walsall Manor Hospital for regular check-ups after her weeks in the neonatal unit, but her mother says the future looks bright for her. She added: "I pretty much lived in hospital for three months. It was awful but we have got through it and it is great to get everyone together like this."

Olive Hemmings, aged 88, of Walsall, with daughter Sandra Gibson, aged 68, of Brownhills, her daughter Debbie Townsend, aged 46, of Bloxwich, her daughter Laura Townsend, aged 23, and Faith Arrowsmith, aged 15 weeks

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Views sought on plans

VIEWS are being sought over plans to close children's centre in Walsall.

Walsall Council is proposing to close 12 children's centres across the borough as part of plans to cut £29.2 million from its budget next year.

People are being asked to share their views about how support from children's centres could be done differently as part of a consultation exercise.

The consultation will be running until January 5. People can complete an online survey at www.walsall.gov.uk

Mother died just three days after routine op

A 29-YEAR-OLD mother-of-three died two days after being discharged from hospital following a routine gallstones procedure, an inquest heard.

Tracey Bannister, from Bloxwich, had already undergone two similar procedures last year before going to Walsall Manor Hospital in June. She had been suffering from gall bladder problems for 18 months.

The procedure saw her have a small tube known as a stent taken out. She was operated on and discharged on the same day.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard she soon began to feel unwell and spent the day following her operation in bed before a ambulance was called the next morning. She was taken to hospital but rapidly deteriorated and died around an hour after she arrived.

A statement from her mother read out at the inquest called for the death to be fully investigated as she couldn't understand how she could go into hospital as 'healthy as ever' on June 24 only to die two days later.

Tracey Bannister

Shocked

The hearing was told that the doctor who performed the procedure said it had gone 'absolutely fine' and said staff were shocked at what happened.

The paramedic who saw Miss Bannister at home said she was sitting on the sofa alert but her palms were blue and her blood sugar levels were low.

Once at Walsall Manor, Miss Bannister rapidly deteriorated, her major organs began to shut down and she suffered a cardiac arrest.

A post mortem found Miss Bannister had jaundice and underlying liver problems.

The cause of death was recorded as sepsis, liver failure and biliary obstruction and a contributory factor was recorded as obesity.

Senior coroner Zafar Siddique said had she sought help sooner the outcome may have been different and concluded that she died of natural causes.

He added: "I will write to the trust with recommendations to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances and to modify the information forms given to patients regarding feeling unwell.

"The death of a young woman with young children is a devastating tragedy."

Miss Bannister's mother Diane said: "Although we have found out more information we still do not have all of the answers to our questions."

Sponsors proud to lend support for civic awards

THE sponsors of the Mayor of Walsall's Civic Awards say they are proud to support the event.

Affectionately known as the Doras, Mayor Councillor Pete Smith's awards ceremony takes place at Walsall Town Hall on March 20.

They aim to recognise unsung heroes who work to help and improve the lives of others in the borough and make people proud of Walsall.

Sponsors include APCOA Parking, Barhale Construction plc, DWF LLP, The Mid Counties Co-Operative and Walsall Housing Group.

Connie Jennings, the housing group's regeneration project manager, said: "We are proud to sponsor the Mayor's Awards.

"As the largest provider of social housing in Walsall, with a fifth of the borough living in our homes, it is our opportunity to recognise and celebrate what is achieved in our communities by so many people."

Councillor Smith said: "The mayoress and I are really looking forward to this evening and meeting these inspirational people who have such a positive impact upon their communities."

Nominations can be made until December 12. Visit www.walsall.gov.uk/nomination-applications

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Fears grow over man missing from home

Peter Williams – missing

CONCERNS are growing for a man who has gone missing from his home in Pelsall.

Peter Williams was last seen by his family shortly before 9am on Sunday, November 16, when he left the house to get his car washed.

The 58-year-old, who has suffered with health problems, failed to return and he has not been seen since.

Peter is likely to still be in his cream-coloured Fiat 500 car, wregistration BG62 LVK. He was wearing a petrol blue hoodie, a blue T-shirt, black tracksuit bottoms and Adidas trainers.

Peter is around 5ft 7ins, of slim build, with short grey hair. He has tattoos on his arms spelling the names Robin, Jack and Cal.

Sgt Joanne Wilkinson, of Walsall Police, said: "Peter's has had some health problems in recent years and as a result he can sometimes appear confused. We urge people to contact us if they see Peter or his car."

Contact Bloxwich Police by dialling 101.

FOCUS ON PELSALL

Hospitals called to find beds for premature twins

By Katy-Rose Meaney

THE parents of premature twins from Pelsall had to travel almost 90 miles for care after medical staff phoned round hospitals to accommodate the babies, an inquest heard.

Jack and Spencer Dolan died in Liverpool having been moved there following their births at just 25 weeks at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Liverpool Women's Hospital was the closest specialist premature ward with spaces available on May 31.

But an inquest heard how staff had to call each unit to see if there was space – something senior coroner Zafar Siddique said was not the best use of their time.

He said the deaths were due to complications from the early birth. There was no suggestion the journey caused any problems. But he said: " It is not the best use of time for a medic to be calling around hospitals." The hospital is not equipped to deal with babies born under 28 weeks.

Consultant radiologist Dr Caroline Holland told the inquest at Smethwick Council House: "It is not an efficient way, it took 45 minutes."

It concluded the babies died from brain injuries and complications due to the premature births.

Parents Victoria and Christopher Dolan, of Barn Owl Drive, were at the inquest. Mr Dolan said: "We knew it would be a battle for them but we were just hopeful that they would pull through."

Emergency services at the scene of the crash in High Street, Pelsall

Crews cut off roof to set free driver in crash

A DRIVER escaped with minor injuries when her sports car smashed into two road signs on a main road in Walsall.

The vehicle was wrecked in the crash in Pelsall High Street in the early hours of last Tuesday, November 18.

The BMW Z3 had hit a large plant pot and two road signs, leaving the woman in her 30s trapped in the car.

Firefighters from Bloxwich cut off the car's roof after the side of the vehicle was badly smashed in, leaving them unable to open the door.

Emergency services were called at 1.55am, with two fire crews and an ambulance being sent to the scene.

A nearby resident who asked not to be named said: "It looked pretty nasty. I'm surprised no-one was badly hurt, as the car was a mess. When I saw all the fire engines and the paramedics I thought it was really serious."

Bloxwich fire crews tweeted: "Force of impact enough to destroy two road signs & tear a front wheel off the car. Driver escaped with minor injuries."

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Chris Kowalik said: "A woman in her 30s was treated for minor injuries and taken to Walsall Manor Hospital."

Cash boost to benefit PE lessons

A PELSALL school is one of number across Walsall that will have funding to transform PE lessons.

Schools across the borough have scooped more than £850,000 of Government funding. Among those to receive a share of the windfall is Ryder Hayes Community School.

Seventy-seven maintained schools along with 14 academies will get a slice of £17 million.

A total of £850,070 has gone to schools including Blackwood in Streetly, Hillary Primary School, in Pleck, Leighswood School, in Aldridge and Park Hall Junior Academy in Walsall. Mirus Academy in Bloxwich has been given £9,615 as it undergoes a £3 million revamp.

Minister for Children and Families, Edward Timpson, said he hoped the cash would boost exercise among youngsters.

It's bangers and smash

A BUTCHER has won an award for his traditional sausages. Turners of Pelsall were judged the best in the West Midlands by Celebrity Masterchef winner and former England Rugby captain Phil Vickery.

Winning butcher Frank Turner said: "I wanted to make a sausage that showcased that independent butchers were still making quality products."

Just 42 of 500 sausages submitted made it through to the finals.

Budget: Have your say

We need to save £86m over the next four years.

We'll have less money in the future, so we'll have fewer staff and won't be able to do as much.

To see our draft budget proposals, and to have your say, visit our website www.walsall.gov.uk/budgethaveyoursay or drop in and see us at one of the following sessions.

Informal face to face drop in sessions are being held all over the borough where you can give your views until 9 December 2014.

If you'd like to drop in for an informal chat about the draft budget proposals, you'll find us at the following venues over the next week.

Further dates and venues can be found on the website or by calling the budget consultation hotline on 01922 653644.

Friday 28 November 2014 2pm-4pm
Bloxwich Library, WS3 2HR

Monday 1 December 2014 2pm-4pm
First Stop Shop, WS1 1TP

Tuesday 2 December 2014 9.30am-12.30pm
First Stop Express, Willenhall Town Centre

Tuesday 2 December 2014 1.30pm-4pm
First Stop Express, King Street, Darlaston

Thursday 4 December 2014 4pm to 6pm
Central Library, Walsall, WS1 1TR

Friday 5 December 2014 10am-12pm
Willenhall Library, WV13 2EX

For more information visit:
www.walsall.gov.uk/budgethaveyoursay

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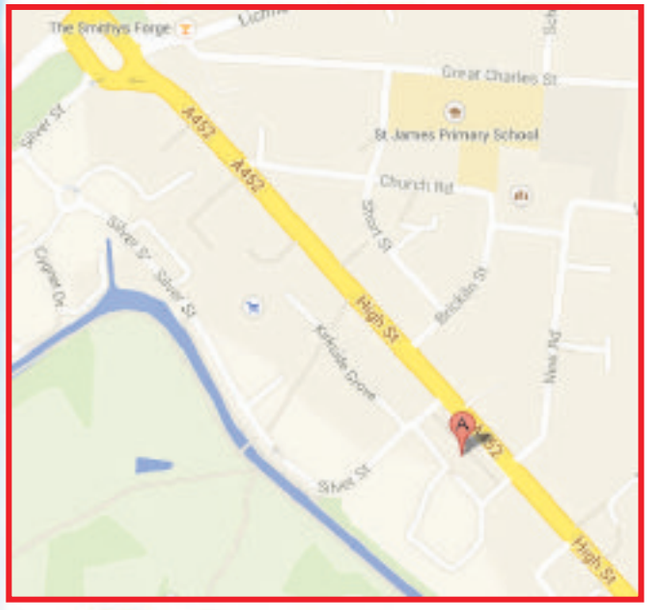

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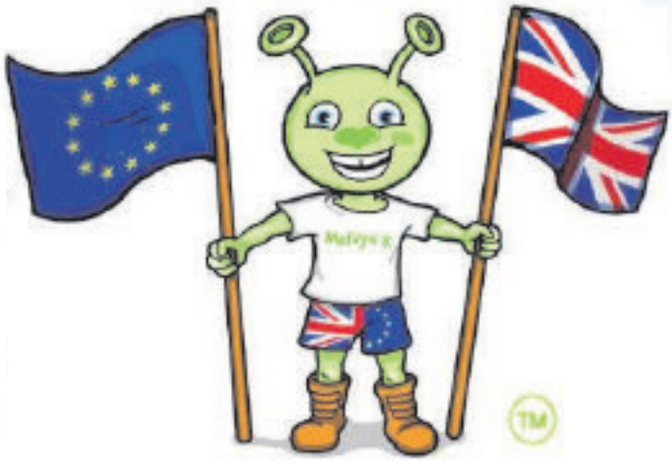

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The war veteran at his home in Rushall Close, Walsall

Historical author Heather Steele, Graham and Karl Konig in Normandy in 2014

Graham Stevenson, second left, in Tarhuna in Tunisia in 1943

Graham Stevenson aged 15 with his father Harry

War veteran honoured and humbled by award

GRAHAM Stevenson was so eager to join the Army he lied about his age when he signed up.

The soldier boy was just 16 when he enlisted, but told the recruitment officer he was 18. The officer called him a 'good lad' and he was enrolled on December 11, 1941.

"To serve in any way was a privilege," says the veteran from Walsall who has now been awarded the prestigious Legion of Honour medal for his service during the Second World War.

Now aged 89, he was notified by the Ministry Of Defence that he was to receive the award from France, officially titled the Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur and said it was a 'complete surprise' but one he was very proud of.

As a teenager, Mr Stevenson signed up first to the Royal Armoured Corps. The young soldier was sent to Catterick in North Yorkshire for training before he was deployed to the Middle East. Mr Stevenson, of Rushall, recalls: "It took six weeks to get there on a boat called The Empress of Japan.

MEMORY LANE

By Katy Rose Meaney

"I worked as an anti-aircraft gunner while on-board. I was sent to Cairo and we fought across the Western desert in Libya, and the historic region of Tripolitana.

"We finished in Tunisia where we finally beat the African core and the Italians."

He came home that December just before his 19th birthday and was sent to fight at Normandy in June 1944 with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. While in France he was shot. Mr Stevenson said: "I was injured on July 11, 1944 in Tilly-sur-Seulles. I was outside my tank when I had a burst of machine gun fire through my right arm and that was the end of it for me. I have a very clear memory of that day. I very nearly died."

The solider was taken to a casualty clearing station. While there, he had a transfusion for five pints of blood.

Once he was strong enough, Mr Stevenson was flown back to the UK and spent six months in hospital in Wolverhampton after arriving on a train ambulance.

He was allowed home on November 19 and was later discharged from the Army in 1945, classed as disabled due to his arm injuries. He had a tendon transplant and went back to work in a central wages office where he met his wife, Ella.

The couple wed in March 1946 and were married for 62 years. Mrs Stevenson died six years ago.

Over the decades, Mr Stevenson has donated blood 67 times and has been a poppy seller for 65 years. He has also spent time visiting hospital patients and has been returning to Normandy for the past 10 years.

He now proudly has five British medals, one French medal and a Year of the Volunteer Medal. Of the Legion of Honour, he said: "I am very pleased, it brought back a lot of memories."

Graham in 1944 before being deployed to Normandy

K.Stuart Swash

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Guide: £130,000 / £140,000

VIEWING: BY APPOINTMENT

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EPC: TBA

Guide: £59,000 / £64,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28th & 29th NOVEMBER @ 12.00 noon

10 ALEXANDRA ROAD, PENN

Very smartly modernised, Late Victorian Mid Terraced Residence with Two Reception, Kitchen and Utility, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom, Gas CH., Double Glazed,

Useful Outbuilding and Rear Garden. EPC: D63

Guide: £125,000 /£135,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28th & 29th NOVEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.

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Girl group album is a surefire Bette

Reviews by Leon Burakowski

BETTE Midler has long been the queen of cabaret-style entertainment with her blend of ballads, show tunes and wicked sense of humour.

To most under-30s she is probably best known as the funniest of the three witches in Disney's Halloween favourite Hocus Pocus.

Now she's back with her tribute to girl group pop, from the 1930s to 90s. **It's The Girls** is a classy project with Bette providing her own backing vocals, though she enlists the queen of backing singers Darlene Love to duet on The Crystals' He's Sure The Boy I Love. Be My Baby, One Fine Day and Tell Him stick close to the originals.

Elsewhere she gives the songs an interesting twist, introducing a hint of her home state of Hawaii to Mr Sandman and brilliantly slowing Martha and the Vandellas' Come And Get These Memories to a poignant ballad. A stripped back, piano-led version of TLC's Waterfalls packs an emotional punch and she even pulls off a banjo-picking hillbilly version of You Can't Hurry Love. The album ends in fine vintage style with the Dixieland jazz of It's The Girl.

Bette Midler begins her first UK tour in 35 years at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on July 9.

The combined CD/DVD package **Whitney Houston Live: Her Greatest Performances** combines 16 tracks plus 18 video performances, starting with her teenaged debut singing Home on The Merv Griffin TV show in 1983, via her Super Bowl performance of The Star Spangled Banner in '91 to her emotional I Didn't Know My Own Strength on The Oprah Winfrey Show in 2009. She died in 2012, aged only 48.

As a live album, this doesn't hang together as well as a single concert performance but Whitney fans may enjoy the overview of her career. Whitney Houston also appears on **Barry Manilow** album **My Dream Duets** in which Barry sings with a lot of very famous but very dead stars of popular music.

Whitney Houston — many of her famous live performances on a new album

Bette Midler — the singer and comedienne pays tribute to girl groups

It may have been a dream come true for Manilow to duet with Judy Garland, Sammy Davis Jr, Dusty Springfield, Louis Armstrong, etc. I think it is more of a nightmare.

These are not true duets with musical to-and-fro between the artists, they are — however expertly done — slice and splice jobs. It's a bad concept and a creative cul-de-sac for an artist who is surely talented enough to create music without technically resurrecting artists who have no say in the matter. A sample is one thing but to tamper with these artists' music within the genres in which they excelled is questionable.

Moody dance anthems come with an Ibiza twist from synth pop veterans **Erasure** on new album **The Violet Flame**. The duo celebrate nearly 30 years of hits at a sold-out Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Young singer-songwriter James Page, under stage name **Sivu**, creates a potent atmosphere on his debut album **Something On High.** It's a blend of tremulous vocals and haunted soundscapes with songs of isolation and yearning. Listen if you like London Grammar or Wild Beasts. He will be supporting Bombay Bicycle Club at Wolverhampton Civic on December 10.

Deadline for charity box filling

Wombourne WI

BEFORE the business of the evening Tina, from Samaritan Boxes, came to take the things we had collected for this charity.

She thanked us on behalf of the charity. The boxes have to be ready by the December 6.

Our speaker for the evening was Peter Moody who came to talk to us about Beacon, Sedgley. Begun in 1875 the centre has seen many changes including names. In 1926 it was known as Wolverhampton Society for the blind and the old buildings had workshops.

Unfortunately cheap imports soon saw these building out of use so they were knocked down. Rebuilding has been done in stages, finally completed in 2009 and reopened as a charity to help local people with sight loss.Around four percent are totally blind other members are helped with varying problems arising from cataracts, diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration, sight loss after strokes etc.Beacon has more than 50apartments, almost like sheltered accommodation, including a shop, hairdressers, activity centre and coffee shop. There are day members too and all enjoy the wider range of activities and excursions on offer. We look forward to a future visit to be shown round. A lovely, informative evening.

Our meetings are now held at Wombourne Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join us.

Grand trip proved to be a real topper

Wombourne E TG

THE November meeting began with a short introduction from the Committee.

A trip to see Top Hat at the Grand had been a great success being an excellent production. Both Chris and Doreen were thanked for organising the much enjoyed Beetle 'cat' Drive.

Chairman Dorothy Bailey then introduced our speakers, John and Annette Christophers from Albrighton Pottery. We were well entertained by John on the origins of the use of clay by our ancestors.

The highlight of the evening involved all members getting involved in a project. Anne very ably instructed and produced a bowl ready for firing.

Christmas celebrations will begin with the Federation of TGs Carol service at St John's in the Square Wolverhampton on Saturday December 6 at 11am.

The monthly meeting on December 11 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Wombourne will be a Christmas Celebration with supper provided.

Getting ready for the festive season

Trysull & Seisdon WI

A warm welcome was given to all the members and visitors.

This month's meeting was all about Getting ready for Christmas our speaker for the evening was Linda Jackson who had come along to demonstrate a variety of flower arrangements.

Linda demonstrated simple arrangement suitable for the Christmas dinner table, a grand arrangement that would dress the finest of hall's and arrangements that could fit around the home and set the scene for the festive season.

We all sat, watched and listened to some of Linda's memorable moments, which certainly entertained us whilst she was creating her arrangements.

We had a most enjoyable time and the flower arrangement 's were raffled off and the following names were the lucky winners, Mary Westwood, Ena Wooddisse, Claire Shinton, Peggy White, Freda Fellows, Freda Perks, Sue Cotterell and Barbara Morris.

The competition for a Homemade Christmas Craft was won by Freda Fellows.

We are holding our WI Christmas Party on December 11 at the Village Hall, Trysull.

The Women's Institute meet every second Thursday in the month at the Village Hall, Trysull, 7.30pm.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Memories from Wall Heath

K-ford and District Historical Society

LOCAL historian John Sparry spoke at the November meeting of the Society about his Kingswinford and Wall Heath Memories.

Born in Kingswinford he told of the local characters, shopkeepers and neighbours whilst living in Moss Grove. After the family moved to Wall Heath he recounted incidents during the war of bombs dropping locally and of his journeys to school in Stourbridge. The Society meets at the Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. The December meeting starts at an earlier time of 7pm as this begins with the AGM.

The Society is in need of new officers and committee members and unless volunteers come forward it is likely the Society will close in 2015. Further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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- Walkers Shortbread Rounds, 100g
- Walkers Nonsuch Hazelnut Toffee, 100g
- Twinings English Breakfast Tea, 10 pkt

Australian Luxury – £54.75
New Zealand Luxury – £54.75
- Hardys Brut Reserve Sparkling Wine, 750ml
- Whittings Christmas Fruit Cake, 500g
- Whittings Christmas Pudding, 400g
- Napoli Hazelnut Crème Filled Wafers, 120g
- Carrs Water Crackers, 125g
- Figaro Olives with Pimentos, 142g
- Mackays Cranberry Sauce, 227g
- Gardiners Malt Whiskey Fudge, 150g
- Stern's Pfeffernüsse Traditional Gingerbread Cookies, 200g
- Soletti Pretzel Sticks, 80g
- Twinings English Breakfast Tea,10 pkt
- Vittoria Espresso Coffee, 50g

North American Hampers
(Excludes Alaska and Hawaii)

USA Food – £47.75
Canadian Food – £47.75
- Twinings English Breakfast Tea (20s)
- Rademaker Chocolate Mint Sticks, 75g
- Royal Edinburgh Shortbread Fingers, 125g
- Borges Green Olives with Pimento, 125ml
- Carr's Water Crackers, 125g
- Walkers Toffee and Pecan Biscuits, 150g
- Weston's Traditional Fruit Cake, 600g

USA Luxury – £54.75
Canadian Luxury – £54.75
- Baxters Chicken Broth, 540ml
- Royal Edinburgh Shortbread Fingers, 125g
- Waterbridge Occasions Choc. Toffee, 150g
- Waterbridge Fudge Butter, 200g
- Waterbridge Slimstix Dark Mint, 75g
- Bassetts Liquorice Allsorts, 200g
- McVities Digestives, 400g
- Robertson's Scotch & Orange Marmalade, 250ml
- Emelia's Blueberry Chutney, 250ml
- Carr's Water Crackers, 125g
- Weston's Traditional Fruit Cake, 600g

Should a listed item become unavailable, a substitution of equal or greater value will be made

Special Offers

Christmas Stocking
A cloth Christmas stocking filled with confectionary goodies. Something for the children to hang on the end of the bed at Christmas.
Cost £16.00

New Year Bubbly
(Available to Australia and New Zealand only)
A 750ml bottle of award winning Omni Sparkling Wine with a greeting tag which reads 'For you to celebrate the New Year'
Cost £18.00

These special offers can only be purchased with the hampers listed and sent to the same address

Order online at www.overseasgifts.com/starextra (prices may vary due to current rates of exchange)

Or send this form along with a cheque or card details to:
Hamper Offer
Promotions Department
Express & Star/Shropshire Star
Queen Street
Wolverhampton WV1 1ES
Please make cheques payable to MNA Ltd.
Please note we do not accept cash payments

Tick the boxes above to indicate your selection and quantity
Separate forms are required for each recipient – please attach together
Send the hamper(s) as indicated in the boxes above, which total £_ _ _. _ _ _
Please include ..... Christmas Stocking(s) @ £16.00 each £_ _ _. _ _ _
Please include ..... New Year Bubbly(s) @ £18.00 each £_ _ _. _ _ _
I enclose total remittance for £_ _ _. _ _ _
Visa/Mastercard number _ _ _ _ /_ _ _ _ /_ _ _ _ /_ _ _ _
Expiry date _ _ /_ _ Security no _ _ _ Signature.....

Please use CAPITALS
Sender's details
FROM: Title.....First Name.....
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
Postcode.....
Daytime No. .....

DELIVER TO: Title.....First Name.....
Surname.....
Address (No P.O Box addresses).....
.....
Town/City.....
State.....
Post/zip code.....
Country.....
Daytime No. .....
A post/zip code and daytime telephone number must be included

Your message (Please use CAPITALS - max 15 words).....
.....
.....

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HUGE RANGE OF CHRISTMAS STOCK IN STORE

www.latifs.co.uk

Offers valid until 3rd December 2014 (while stocks last)

Tate & Lyle Sugar
1 Kg
Price: **45p**
SSSP: ~~89p~~

S00 Soft 18 Roll 2 Ply Toilet Tissue
Price: **£1.99**
SSSP: ~~£4.99~~

Talent 6 Pack Kitchen Roll
Price: **99p**
SSSP: ~~£1.99~~

BacoFoil Turkey Tray
Dimensions: L-44cm x W-32.5cm x D-7.5cm
Price: **49p** each
SSSP: ~~£1.49~~

Pepsi, Mirinda, 7Up
Pk of 24, 330ml Cans
Price: **£4.99**
SSSP: ~~£9.59~~

Mens Thermal Long Johns or Vest
Price: **£1.99** each
SSSP: ~~£4.99 each~~

BacoFoil Turkey Foil
Dimensions: 600mm x 3m
Price: **69p**
SSSP: ~~£1.99~~

Kaltun Madran Natural Spring Water
Pack of 12 x 500 ml
Price: **99p**
SSSP: ~~£3.99~~

De-Labelled Designer Jeans
Price: **£6.99** each
2 for £10.00
SSSP: ~~£69.99~~

Ferrero Rocher
30 Pk , 375g
Price: **£4.99**
SSSP: ~~£9.99~~

Daz 20 Wash 1L
Biological Laundry Liquid
Price: **£1.99**
SSSP: ~~£2.99~~

Duracell Plus Power AA Batteries - 5 Pack + 3 Free. Duracell Plus Power AAA Batteries - 5 Pack + 3 Free.
Price: **£1.99** each
SSSP: ~~£8.99~~

Pure Heaven Celebration Non Alcoholic Drink 750ml
White Grape with Strawberry, White Grape, Red Grape
Price: **£1.49** each
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Bonsai Trees
Available in Multi Colour, Warm White, White, White & Blue
45cm with 64 LEDs: **£9.99**
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2m with 300 LEDs: **£49.99**

Top Flame Butane Gas
Pack of 4x220g
Price: **£2.99**
SSSP: ~~£4.99~~

2000W Cast Iron Effect Electric Fireplace Heater
2000W cast iron effect electric fireplace heater. Features realistic flickering glow effect logs and black casing. No flue required. H54cmxW40cmxD28cm. 2 heat settings. Complete with 1.9m cable and fitted BS plug. 220-240V50Hz.
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Quest 1.7L Cordless Kettle 2200W
Max Capacity: 1.7 Litre (3 pints approx)
Slide-out washable filter
Dual water level indicator window
Automatic safety cut-off. Hinged Lid.
Illuminated Power Indicator
Available in White & Black Colour
Price: **£5.99**
SSSP: ~~15.99p~~

Budget Pillow
Price: **99p**
SSSP: ~~£1.99~~

HUGE RANGE OF CHRISTMAS TREES, LIGHTS AND TOYS IN STORE

Snow Tipped Bottle Brush Tree with Berries and Cones
80cm: **£24.99**
120cm: **£39.99**
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Pack of 10 Christmas Crackers
Starting From: **£1.99**

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All Prices Includes VAT, and **Subject to availability*.
Pictures are for illustration purposes only

Christmas in Walsall

A five-page commercial supplement containing ideas for the festive season

QUALITY IS OUR FUTURE

ALAN WARWICK BUTCHERS

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Boneless Turkey Breast **£27.99 Each**
Minimun 3.5 kilo

WHOLE LAMB LEGS	£10.99 EACH
2 1/2 LB SHORT BACK BACON	£3.99
60 DAY MATURED ROASTING BEEF (SILVERSIDE)	£2.59 PER LB
10 LB CHICKEN THIGHS	£5
2 LB FRESH BONELESS CHICKEN FILLETS	£3.99
3 LB LAMB CHOPS	£5
3 LB FRESH SIRLOIN STEAK	£10
3 LB PORK CHOPS BONELESS	£5

At 20 Victorian Arcade (formally Mike Parkes Butchers)

Wonderful winter events

Willenhall will host local including singers, bands and stalls selling Christmas crafts

Entertainers steal the show

Again an outstanding programme of events and performers have been lined up

Christmas is on its way in Walsall, with a number of Winter Wonderland events taking place across towns in the borough.

Last year, more than 5,000 visitors each area flocked to Walsall, Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall to enjoy the festivities and organisers behind this Christmas events are expecting that to increase as more activities are added to the programme.

The festive season officially kicks off with Aldridge and Bloxwich, with Santa making his first appearances in Walsall on Saturday, November 29.

An ice rink free for all to use in Bloxwich Park is this year's main attraction for the 'Sparkle into a Bloxwich' Christmas, but festive fun-filled entertainment will take place throughout the day, including a bucking reindeer, Christmas trail, local choir performances, donkeys, rides and Christmas stalls.

Free face painting and balloon modelling as well as other Christmas entertainment acts including a 10ft inflatable Snowman will capture the imagination of little ones.

Held on the same day will be the Aldridge Advent Adventure. The town will host a free ice rink and an entertainment stage full of local acts, as well as traditional children's rides including a roundabout and Christmas stalls, a petting zoo and professional photo portraits to keep families entertained.

Then it's on to a Wonderful Willenhall Christmas on Saturday, December 6 held in Market Place and Stafford Street in the town. Local entertainment acts, including singers and bands, stalls selling Christmas crafts and the Reach Up climbing frame for youngsters to try out.

Darlaston's 'The Spirit of Christmas' takes place a week later on Saturday, December 13 in King Street. A range of free rides for children of all ages, a petting zoo and free face painting will delight little ones throughout the event, as well as traditional children's rides.

This year's Brownhills Christmas Market Magic on Saturday/Sunday, Decmber 13 /14 will see the town host its first ever Christmas market, with traders selling niche goods such as crafts, jewellery, continental gifts and hot food.

Organisers for the event have modelled the trading event on the popular Walsall Night Market and up to 40 stalls will be erected in the town's Ravenscourt Precinct.

Stalls will trade from 11am to 4pm on both days, supported by a Santa's grotto, a free ice rink, children's rides including a bucking reindeer, a Harry Potter's birds of prey display and other festive themed entertainment.

Walsall Town Centre has plenty to offer this Christmas with a range of national and independent stores including Next, River Island and Marks and Spencer. To help you get into the festive spirit, on December 6 the New Art Gallery Walsall will host the final of Free Radio's Christmas Stars choir competition. Also in town will be two of Santa's reindeers, free face painting and in Gallery Square a selection of children's fairground rides (£1.50 charge).

On Saturday/Sunday, December 13/14 visitors can show off their skating skills on a free 12m x 12m synthetic ice skating rink located in Gallery Square along with free face painting.

While in Walsall don't forget to visit the famous 800 year old market, there will be an extra market day on Thursday 18 December.

Free parking will be provided in all off-street council operated car parks between Saturday, December 20 and Friday, January 2.

Charges return on Saturday, January 3 – this offer only applies to off street council car parks; unless otherwise stated parking charges will still apply at all private car parks. On street parking charges will still be in force.

"Christmas is a great time of the year and once again we've lined up an outstanding programme of events and performers," said councillor Mohammad Nazir, Walsall's regeneration chief.

"With so many great events happening throughout the holidays, we're sure they will leave you feeling wonderfully festive."

New Christmas decorations will brighten the aisles again this year

There is always a great variety of new and interesting shops opening up

Get Christmas wrapped up

The Saddlers Centre is all ready for Christmas this year with a number of new shops opening.

Virgin Media, Mist (E-Cigs) Calendar Club on the first floor and Home Living next to Costa Coffee.

Home Store on the lower floor, Francesca's Fashion, British Heart Foundation, Healthier Choice (E-Cigs) and I Baggage.

These shops make great additions to the existing retailer list with Marks & Spencer and Argos having something for everyone.

Of course customers can also get that special Christmas gift for loved ones from Goldsmiths Jewellers and Warren James both on the lower floor.

Charlie Browns caters for the young men's fashion alongside Echo Island on the first floor, whilst Oxygene and Urban Diva catering for young female fashion. Customers can rest their feet and have a coffee in Costa Coffee on the first floor and at Oliver Adams and Greggs on the lower floor and of course Subway on the lower floor is a great place grab that tasty sandwich or eat in.

Carols

Watch out for Christmas carols outside of Argos during December and Santa will be in the centre in his sleigh on Saturday the 6, 13, and 19 and 20 December from 11am – 4pm each day.

Walsall Rotary Club and Santa's elves will be fundraising for Heart Care and other charities.

The centre has new Christmas decorations again this year and the centre will also have a special story event running on Saturday, December 13 when Free Radio will be on site with Humfree (hamster) visiting, so bring the kids down to see him.

Walsall College Students will be in the centre with their college radio Christmas theme when they will be playing festive music and talking to the customers.

Customers can also take part in the Saddlers Centre Christmas competition to win VIP tickets to Strictly Come Dancing – The Live Tour.

Customers can enter online at saddlers-shopping.com or alternatively fill in an entry form (pick up from retailers in-store) and return the form to the management office on level 1 of the car park.

The competition will go live on-line on the Friday, November 21. Late night trading until 7pm commences on Thursday, December 4. The centre will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day but open Boxing Day from 11 am – 5 pm. See website for more details.

Angela Henderson centre manager at the Saddlers centre would like to wish all of the Saddlers Centre customers a very Merry Christmas.

Lots of fun for the children

Yule have plenty of Square fun

Come along to the Old Square Shopping Centre Christmas market throughout December until Thursday, 23.

As well as the Christmas market there are high street favourites such as Debenhams, Savers, Bright house and more and popular restaurants too including Jenny's, Spud U Like and Debenhams.

Stockings full of fun at Old Square

Children's charity 4 Steps to A Smile will be at the centre for the annual tree giving appeal on Wednesday, November 29 and in December on Friday 6 and Saturday 13 between 12-3pm.

Don't forget to come and see the beautiful Christmas decorations this year from November 20. Parking is available at NCP Freer Street at very competitive rates.

For more information please call on 01922 625105 or visit the website at www.oldsquareshoppingcentre.co.uk

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built to last

Specialists in Pine Kitchens made to measure

Pre-New Year Sale NOW ON

SPECIALISTS IN SOLID WOOD FURNITURE

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UNIT 3
ARROW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
STRAIGHT ROAD WILLENHALL
WEST MIDLANDS WV12 5AE

OPENING TIMES
MONDAY TO FRIDAY: 9–5
SATURDAY: 9–5
SUNDAY: 10–4

WE ARE HERE
Straight Road

Christmas in Walsall

Carving up a quality joint

From brisket to chuck there's a world of great cuts waiting to be discovered at your local butcher

More than 40 years trading has put one Willenhall butcher at the top of its game.

Alan Warwick Butchers has built up a successful business based on quality meat at discount prices along with professional staff who know what they are talking about where meat in concerned - something supermarkets simply cannot match.

Having expanded, the business has opened a shop in Victorian Arcade in Walsall town centre and all the shops offer fantastic discounted prices on meat.

There have been difficult times on the high street but the business has had enough confidence to open a new shop based on customers needing a quality discounted butcher.

This traditional forum of supplier seems to be making a comeback and the reliable butcher's trade continues to go from strength-to-strength over the last five years.

Why not pay a visit to Alan Warwick's shop in Victorian Arcade and see what bargains are on offer.

FINE MENSWEAR TAILORING
EXCLUSIVE FORMAL HIRE STYLING

WALSALL DEAF PEOPLE'S CENTRE
59A Lichfield Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS4 2BX

Ever wanted to learn Sign Language?

We offer qualifications for levels 1, 2 and 3 along with 10 week taster courses.

You will have access to the Deaf Community and tuition by a Deaf person in one of the best centres for the Deaf left in Britain.

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Call Lisa today on:
01922 277281 or 07806 268008

Charity Christmas Fayre
Saturday 6th December 10am - 2pm
In aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital
Big Bake Sale
Meet Father Christmas, £2 per child
Crafty Little Ones (make your unique ceramic gift), cost applies
Art & Craft Activities
Raffle & Auction of excellent prizes
blue giraffe
big fun childcare
Where to find us
Walsall (Rushall)
New Street, Rushall, Walsall WS4 1NW
Telephone: 01922 637777

THE Hair & Beauty STUDIO

All the girls at The Hair and Beauty Studio would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

To get your New Year off to a fresh start, this advert can be used for 10% OFF all services in January

27 Salters Road, Walsall, West Midlands WS9 9JD
TELEPHONE 01543 374486

Auto Diagnosis Centre Bloxwich
Free MOT with every Full Service
Specialists in: ABS, Auto Electrics, Traction Control, Air Conditioning, Air Bags and Fault Code Testing. We deal with new or older vehicles, performance vehicles, petrol or diesel. We offer agent quality parts and workmanship at lower prices
Class 4 MOT only £35
(£30 for loyalty customers)
20% discount for senior citizens
Bring this voucher along and all customers will receive MOT for £30
Join our customer loyalty scheme for exclusive discounts on parts, servicing and labour charges.
FREE collection and delivery service
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Email: revsperminute2011@yahoo.co.uk
54a Harrison Street, Bloxwich WS3 3HN 01922 473500

WALSALL CHRONICLE TEAM
would like to wish everyone a very
Merry Christmas

Aldridge Market Hall
Anchor Square, Aldridge
Monday - Saturday
9.00 am - 5.00 / 5.30 pm
Phone 01922 453627
Free Car Parking Available
Rear Entrance Off Rookery Lane
A variety of goods at reasonable prices

organised by
WILLENHALL
Town Centre Partnership

A Wonderful WILLENHALL Christmas

6 December 2014

Market Place and Stafford Street
10am - 4pm

- Entertainment Stage Packed with Local Acts
- *Free Face Painting*
- *Children's Entertainment*
- *Animal Mania Petting Zoo*
- Lol Entertainment Comedy Photo Booth
- Move Bus with Christmas Crafts
- *Reach Up Climbing Frame*
- *Come Visit Santa Clause*
- Charity Stalls
- *A Range of Free Rides for Kids of all ages* (Various Locations)

and much more!

INSPIRE PHOTO STUDIO
Professional Family Portraits
From £4.00 each

For further information email Diane
at Walsall District Centre Management on mansellid@walsall.gov.uk

Walsall Council · whg · Willenhall · Willenhall in Bloom

Aldridge Advent Adventure

Saturday 29 November
10am to 4pm
Aldridge Village Centre
Hosted by Aldridge Village Partnership and Walsall Council

- **Ice rink in the square** (10am - 4pm)
- **Free Face Painting**
- Entertainment Stage (Anchor Road)
- Inspire Photo Studio (Professional Family Portraits $4 each)
- **Animal Mania Petting Zoo** (High Street)
- Lol Entertainment Comedy Photo Studio FREE
- **Visit Santa and his helpers in the Square**
- **A Range of Free Rides for Kids of all ages** (Various Locations)
- Local Charity Stalls
- **Children's Entertainment**
- Aldridge Volunteer Gardeners

Free Ice Rink

5th - 7th December
Christmas Tree Festival
Methodist Church
Anchor Road

6th December
Light Up a Life
Christmas Service at 4pm in Aldridge Shopping Centre.

For more information, email Walsall Council's
District Centre Management Team on mansellid@walsall.gov.uk

Walsall Council · whg · Aldridge Shopping Centre · Aldridge

organised by
Darlaston
Town Centre Partnership

10AM - 4PM
SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

KING STREET - DARLASTON

- Entertainment Stage - Packed with Local Acts
- **Children's Entertainment**
- **Animal Mania Petting Zoo**
- Lol Entertainment Comedy Photo Booth
- **Free Face Painting**
- Move Bus with Christmas Crafts
- **Reach Up Climbing Frame**
- **Come Visit Santa Clause**
- Charity Stalls
- **A Range of Free Rides for Kids of all ages** (Various Locations)

and much more!

INSPIRE PHOTO STUDIO
Professional Family Portraits
From £4.00 each

For further information contact Diane
at Walsall District Centre Management
on mansellid@walsall.gov.uk

Walsall Council · whg · ASDA · Darlaston · Darlaston in Bloom

Sparkle into a Bloxwich Christmas

Saturday 29 November 2014
10am to 4pm
Bloxwich Park, High Street

- ★ Christmas Trail
- ★ Santa on his Sleigh handing out a free Christmas gift
- ★ Bloxwich local choir performances
- ★ Christmas drinks & cakes
- ★ Christmas Entertainment Acts including a 10ft Inflatable Snowman
- ★ Festive fun filled entertainment at High Street, Parklands Court
- ★ Christmas window displays
- ★ Christmas donkeys
- ★ Children's rides
- ★ Christmas Stalls

Main Attraction:

Ice Rink

at Bloxwich Park, High Street, Bloxwich
Available from 10am to 4pm
FREE Admission

For more information about this event contact Nikki Rolls on 01922 654324

Working in Partnership with Bloxwich Phoenix Rotary Club

Walsall Council · Bloxwich Business Partnership C.I.C.

star extra TRAVEL

For brochures please call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Express & Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises).

Barcelona
and the Highlights of Catalonia

Seven days
Selected departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £749

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Three dinners
- Guided tours of Barcelona and Tarragona
- Timed and guided visit of Sagrada Familia
- Guided tour of Poblet Monastery
- Visits to Girona, a Cava vineyard, and Montserrat's Benedictine monastery
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

André Rieu
and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in Maastricht

Three days departing July 10

PRICE FROM £269

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Seated ticket to see André Rieu and The Johann Strauss Orchestra on the Vrijthof Square in Maastricht (ticket upgrades offered)
- Visit to Maastricht
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Five-day coach break plus Eurostar/air breaks also offered
Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Eight days various departure dates 2015

PRICE FROM £809

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation in a choice of three and four star hotels
- Guided tour of Pompeii and walking tour of Sorrento
- Visit to Naples including the Archaeological Museum
- Cruise to Capri
- Visits to the volcano of Vesuvius and Ravello
- Tour of the Amalfi coast
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

The Dawlish Railway and the Avocet Line

Four days departing March 27

PRICE FROM £229

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Railway journey on the Riviera Line from Exeter to Paignton
- Cruise of the River Exe with cream tea
- Railway journey on the Avocet Line from Topsham to Exmouth
- Free time in Exmouth and Torquay
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing April 10

PRICE FROM £219

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Call the Midwife

Two days departing May 16, Jul 25, Oct 3

PRICE FROM £125

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit with entrance to London's Dockyard in Chatham, including a 90-minute guided Call the Midwife tour
- Visit to Canterbury
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bletchley Park
The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3

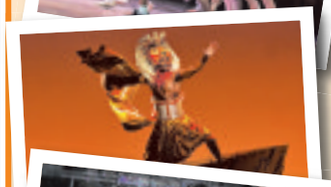
PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Visit to Oxford
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

London Theatre breaks by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates



PRICE FROM £139.95*

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with dinner.

The Saturday Night theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with dinner option starts from £149.95 and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Valentines London break with a Queen of Hearts Afternoon Tea

Pick of the week

Two days departing February 15

PRICE FROM £179

Treat your loved one to a Valentines break to remember next year staying at a four-star hotel in the heart of the capital.

The highlight of this short break will surely be the Alice in Wonderland inspired afternoon tea, served in the renowned Scoff & Banter restaurant at the four-star Radisson Blu Edwardian New Providence Wharf Hotel, which has breathtaking river views overlooking the Thames.

With little 'eat me' labels and heart shaped sandwiches, it's a magical dining experience that brings the timeless novel to life.

Starting at Canary Wharf the Thames Clipper journey along the river takes in the sights of London at a leisurely pace. Cruise past Tower Bridge, HMS Belfast, the Tower of London and St Paul's Cathedral before disembarking at Embankment Pier, where there will be time to explore London at leisure.

Free time in Greenwich is also on the itinerary. Maybe explore one of London's best covered markets, with up to 120 stalls showing craft and design. Other free attractions here include the National Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at the four-star Radisson Blu Edwardian New Providence Wharf hotel
- Queen of Hearts Afternoon Tea
- Thames Clipper from Canary Wharf to central London
- Visit to Greenwich
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Detecting a gem available on DVD

ON a comedy scene that seems to be getting increasingly cruel and vulgar, recent rural sitcom Detectorists was a welcome dose of gently-paced whimsy on BBC4.

Written and directed by Mackenzie Crook (from The Office), he and Toby Jones (Infamous/Marvellous) play a pair of metal detector enthusiasts who think they are in with a chance of discovering a buried treasure of Staffordshire Hoard proportions. They face competition from a rival metal detecting club, a bonkers landowner and flawed relationships with the opposite sex.

A nicely acted ensemble piece in a market town setting, if not seen it is worth discovering now on DVD.

Leon Burakowski

South songs will fill the Civic Hall

THE songs of The Beautiful South and new album What Have We Become will be heard by a full house at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday for Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott.

On Friday Peter Gabriel is at the LG Arena, Diversity dance at the NIA, and Gertcha duo Chas & Dave are at Birminghan Town Hall. Synth pop pair Erasure have filled the Civic Hall on Saturday, the same night Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews performs his haunting album Home Part 1 at Birmingham Town Hall. McBusted and Ed Sheeran are among Saturday's acts at Free Radio Live at the LG Arena.

Oh what a night as the Jersey Boys arrive for festive season

Giving Peace a chance

ROCK band Peace follow their acclaimed debut album In Love with their second album, Happy People, on February 9.

The guitar crashing lo-fi outfit bring their surly sound home to the West Midlands for a gig at Birmingham's Institute on January 24.

Droitwich brothers Harry and Sam Koisser joined forces with Doug Castle and Dom Boyce at Worcester Sixth Form College.

In 2014 the band played the main stage of Reading and Leeds festival, sold out numerous dates throughout the UK and released singles Money and Lost on Me.

Fans of Bombay Bicycle Club will get a preview of the new songs with Peace due to support them at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 10.

Happy People — Worcestershire rock band Peace are unveiling their 'scuzzy but beautiful' new album, mostly produced by Arctic Monkeys and Kasabian producer Jim Abbiss

JERSEY Boys has now been seen by over 19 million people worldwide and is firmly established as one of the London West End's most popular shows.

Now the show comes to Birmingham on tour, running at the New Alexandra Theatre from December 9 to January 4.

It tells the remarkable true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and their rise to stardom from the wrong side of the track. These four boys from New Jersey became one of the most successful bands in pop history, were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and sold 175 million records worldwide, all before they turned 30.

Telling their story from the 1950s to 70s, the show is packed with their hits, including Beggin', Sherry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh What a Night), Big Girls Don't Cry, My Eyes Adored You, Let's Hang On (To What We've Got), Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back to You, Fallen Angel, Rag Doll and Who Loves You.

Worldwide

Jersey Boys is the winner of 55 major awards worldwide, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. The show originally opened on Broadway in 2006, receiving the Tony Award for Best Musical. It is still running on Broadway, in Las Vegas and in the West End.

Joining West End star Tim Driesen as Frankie Valli are Stephen Webb, Sam Ferriday and Lewis Griffiths, playing Tommy DeVito, Bob Gaudio and Nick Massi respectively. Matt Corner will play the role of Frankie Valli at certain performances. Also in the cast will be Sean Kingsley as Gyp DeCarlo, Matt Gillett as Bob Crewe, Nathaniel Morrison as Barry Belson and Damian Buhagiar as Joey Pesci, the early fan and 'go fer' who became a movie star.

The actual Frankie Valli brings the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons to Birmingham's Genting Arena (formerly the LG) on July 2 next year.

A scene from hit musical Jersey Boys

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, December 3, the Robin 2 at Bilston hosts seated show Jersey Boy with Stephen James performing the Frankie Valli story with the help of video projection.

The Mount Pleasant venue has more nostalgia on the way. From The Jam, featuring Jam bassist Bruce Foxton, celebrate the 35-year-old Settings Sons album tomorrow night (Friday). Then Nick Dagger and The Counterfeit Stones want to spend the night together on Saturday. Bad Manners bring boisterous ska on December 11, Ray Jackson's Lindisfarne play on December 15 and it's Merry Xmas Everybody from Dave Hill and Don Powell's Slade on December 18.

Popular ballet is a Christmas cracker

IT'S beginning to feel a lot like Christmas... especially now that The Nutcracker is arriving at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The Birmingham Royal Ballet's annual festive treat for its home city is a feel-good seasonal spectacular and a much-loved part of the build up to Christmas in the West Midlands.

It tells the story of a young girl, Clara, who is whisked off to a magical land on Christmas Eve after her brave Nutcracker soldier fights an army of rats. Highlights include the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker, featuring the beautiful music of Tchaikovsky, will be staged from tomorrow (Friday) until December 13.

Rocker Joe now faces worlds war

HE dazzled the nation paying tribute to his rock heroes Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath on The X Factor. Now former bricklayer and salesman Joe Whelan, from Wolverhampton, is to appear at the LG Arena as part of the final arena tour for Jeff Wayne's spectacular musical version of War of the Worlds.

The Martians arrive at the LG on Friday, December 5. Joe features alongside Jason Donovan, Westlife's Brian McFadden, X Factor winner Shayne Ward, West End star Carrie Hope Fletcher, a string orchestra and a hologram of Liam Neeson.

december menu

In addition to our normal menu, we will be offering these additional festive treats

Salads
Vietnamese Noodle Salad
Avocado, Feta & Slow Roasted Tomato Salad
Middle Eastern Hummus with fried Tortilla Bread
Tuna Salad with Green Beans
Asparagus, Bean and Pine Nut Salad

Starters
Pigs in Blankets
Vegetable Samosa
Chilli Garlic Prawns
Thai Chicken Wings with a Sticky Honey Dressing
Tandoori Lamb mince skewers
French Onion Soup

Mains
Traditional Roast Turkey with trimmings
Singapore Style Fried Rice
Roast Butternut Squash or Pumpkin
Chicken Casserole with Red Wine and Roasted Peppers
Chicken Tikka Masala
Sahi Paneer Korma
Orange Chicken
Tofu Pad Khing

Desserts
Traditional Christmas Pudding
Bailey's Chocolate Pot
British Mince Pie
Vanilla Cream Brulee
Stuffed Gulab Jamen
Fruit Trifle
Profiteroles with Chocolate Sauce

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* Table must be vacated by 7pm to avail this offer. A discretionary service charge of 10% may be applied to your bill

CHOICE

Aiysha Hart

Atlantis
(BBC1, 8.15pm)
Rather like the recent run of Doctor Who, at first glance it may appear that Atlantis is a classic teatime show that has somehow been shoehorned into a post-8pm slot by mistake. However, Sarah Parish, who plays the scheming Pasiphae, recently revealed that the makers knew the second series would be airing at a later time, and took the opportunity to make the new run a little darker. So, consider yourself forewarned as this week Ariadne is formally crowned Queen, but has more than just ruling a battle-scarred city to worry about, especially with Pasiphae still at large. Meanwhile, Jason faces a struggle for his own as he fights for glory on the tournament ground. Jack Donnelly, Aiysha Hart and Mark Addy star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second round gets under way at the Barbican Centre in York. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v South Africa (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** Celebrity Mastermind. With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. (R) **5.55** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Panellists including Lionel Blair, Wayne Sleep, Karen Barber and Louie Spence join hosts Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman for a dance edition of the general knowledge quiz.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as twinkle-toed couples perform a series of routines on an Around the World theme - all of which come from different parts of the globe. The professionals get things going with a Bollywood-style group routine, before the remaining seven celebrities battle it out on the dance floor, hoping to impress the viewers and judges, whose decision is getting tougher each week. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm.

8.15 Atlantis. The city remains vulnerable in the aftermath of the battle, so when a stranger offers salvation Ariadne finds him hard to resist. Jason fights for glory on the tournament ground.

9.00 Casualty. Ash is angered by a patient's lifestyle choice, Big Mac treats an old lady who has foiled a robbery and Ethan has a breakthrough.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Jenni Falconer hosts the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Sunderland v Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBBC. **11.00** The Blue Planet. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey. (R) **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second round continues at the Barbican Centre in York. **5.30** Restoring England's Heritage.

6.00 Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java. (R)

7.00 Flog It! Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge value items in Bangor, north Wales. (R)

8.00 Perry and Croft: Made in Britain. The celebration of comedy writing duo David Croft and Jimmy Perry continues with an examination of how their sitcoms chronicled British people's attitudes to love and sex.

8.30 Dad's Army. Sergeant Wilson inherits a title following the death of an elderly relative and joins the aristocracy – much to Mainwaring's annoyance. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Aisling Bea, Tony Hawks and Alan Davies attempt to answer Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topics of love and loveliness.

9.45 Tomorrow's Worlds: The Unearthly History of Science Fiction. Dominic Sandbrook examines sci-fi's obsession with alien invasion, from all-out assault to sinister hidden threats. He explores how it has reflected real-life anxieties – whether they be the challenge to Victorian imperial power in HG Wells's The War of the Worlds, the Cold War paranoia in Invasion of the Body Snatchers or more recent concerns about racism and immigration in 2009 movie District 9. He also celebrates one of the most famous alien invaders of all time – the Dalek. Featuring contributions by Doctor Who showrunner Steven Moffat and former star David Tennant, actor Richard Dreyfuss, Independence Day director Roland Emmerich and special effects supervisors Phil Tippett and Douglas Trumbull.

10.45 Intruders. Jack makes a gruesome discovery in his back garden, while Gary realises how to expose the corruption behind Qui Reverti, but it demands an unthinkable sacrifice.

11.30 Snooker: UK Championship.

12.20 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** The Munch Box. **9.25** Dinner Date. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.20** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.05** Surprise Surprise. (R) **1.05** Doc Martin. (R) **2.05** Keep It in the Family. (R) **3.10 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' videos, featuring a squirrel stealing a smartphone, a fox attacking a golfer and the Smurf who falls victim to a toddler.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Chat-show host Jonathan Ross, comedienne and writer Katy Brand, Watchdog's Chris Hollins and model Jo Wood take on a trivia expert for charity. Bradley Walsh asks the questions.

8.00 The X Factor. The aspiring pop stars hope to turn another week of rehearsals into a winning performance as they battle for places in next week's semi-final. Judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Mel B and Louis Walsh listen out for flat notes as the contestants face their most important performances yet. Will any of them disappoint at this crucial stage of the competition? Dermot O'Leary is the host. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present all the highs and lows from the past 24 hours in the Australian jungle as the campmates spend another day battling bugs and Bushtucker Trials.

10.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to James McAvoy, Phillip Schofield, Sarah Millican, Jessica Ennis-Hill and Barry Manilow, who also performs.

11.55 ITV News; Weather.**12.15 Film:** Coogan's Bluff. (1968) **1.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Snowman Triathlon. **6.40** Cycling: Revolution Series. **7.40** A Day at the Races. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Newcastle. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Woolly Mammoth: The Autopsy. The discovery of an extraordinarily well-preserved woolly mammoth in Siberia last year has quickened the pace of one of the most ambitious and controversial projects in science – the cloning of this iconic giant of the Ice Age. When it was dug out of the permafrost, a dark red liquid oozed from the frozen body. Could it be blood? This documentary follows an international team of experts carrying out a historic autopsy on the carcass and gains access to the leading mammoth de-extinction programmes happening now in the US and South Korea. (R)

8.00 Walking Through History: England's Last Battle – West Country. Tony Robinson hikes up from Lyme Regis in Dorset to the Somerset Levels telling the story of the 1685 Monmouth Rebellion, an attempt to overthrow James II. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie. (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.

11.00 Film: The Sitter. (2011) Premiere. An irresponsible babysitter leads his three charges through a series of dangerous adventures on New York's mean streets. Comedy, starring Jonah Hill.

12.40 Film: Boomerang. (1992) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.40** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.55** NFL: Rush Zone.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **11.40 Film:** Lost at Christmas. (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Dylan Walsh and Jami Gertz. **1.25 Film:** The March Sisters at Christmas. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Julie Marie Berman. **3.10 Film:** I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus. (2002) Family comedy, starring Connie Sellecca. **5.00 Film:** A Fairytale Christmas. (2013) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring C Thomas Howell and Haylie Duff.

6.45 5 News Weekend.

6.50 Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) As Allied forces prepare for a major assault on Germany, a small unit of American soldiers is sent to capture a strategically important bridge over the Rhine – but German forces are determined to prevent the Allied advance, and seek to destroy it. Second World War adventure, starring George Segal, Robert Vaughn, Ben Gazzara and Bradford Dillman. Edited for language and violence.

9.00 Film: The Expendables. (2010) A mercenary leads his elite team on a mission to assassinate a South American dictator, only to find their target is merely a pawn and the real power in the country is a rogue CIA agent. Feeling they have been double-crossed, they abandon the operation – but are compelled to return and save a captured rebel. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Jason Statham and Jet Li.

11.10 Film: War. (2007) An FBI agent is drawn into warfare between Yakuza and Triad gangs as he seeks revenge on the assassin who murdered his partner. Martial arts thriller, with Jet Li.

1.10 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Gotham. Gordon informs Essen he plans to arrest Falcone and the mayor, while a killer is sent into police HQ to murder the detective after Fish Mooney discovers Cobblepot is still alive. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. Ann Maurice shows homeowners near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, how to inject a touch of character into their bland property to make it more appealing. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Sherlock **10.30** Live at the Apollo **11.00** Family Guy **1.35** Some Girls **2.05** Live at the Apollo **2.35** Life Is Toff **3.05** Sweat the Small Stuff **3.35** Fried **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Ice Age Giants **8.00** Sex and Sensibility: The Allure of Art Nouveau **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.40** Imagine: Dame Shirley Bassey: The Girl from Tiger Bay **11.40** Shirley Bassey at the BBC **12.40** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.15** Sounds of the 70s **1.45** Ice Age Giants **2.45** Sex and Sensibility: The Allure of Art Nouveau **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.30 Film: Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997) **1.20 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **3.30 Film:** Rumor Has It (2005) **5.30** You've Been Framed! **6.00** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **7.00 Film:** The Perfect Storm (2000) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.50** The X Factor **1.40** The Xtra Factor **2.35** Example: The Hot Desk **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.50 Film: Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **2.55** A Touch of Frost **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** A Touch of Frost **12.40** Bomb Girls **1.30** World Kitchen **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.45 Live Darts. The Players Championship. **5.00** Cheers **5.30** Storage Wars **7.00** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.00 Film:** Green Street (2005) **1.10** River Monsters: Untold Stories **2.15** Black Gold **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00 Film:** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **3.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.30** Made in Chelsea **4.30** Melissa & Joey **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Skyline (2010) **10.50** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **11.55** The Inbetweeners Go Global **1.00** Rude Tube **2.00** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **2.55** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
11.00 Gunman's Walk (1958) **1.00** Fool's Gold (2008) **3.10** Flight of the Phoenix (2004) **5.20** Meet Dave (2008) **7.15** Bride Wars (2009) **9.00** The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) **11.05** Watchmen (2009) **2.15** Rec 3: Genesis (2012)

We've listened

Your local **Walsall edition** has returned on Saturday

We have listened to reader feedback and reintroduced the Express & Star Walsall edition on Saturday. You will notice significant improvements. Whilst retaining the 'Weekend' supplement, we have also included lots more local news, views and sports coverage.

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Express & Star

CHOICE

Jimmy Carr

Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking
(Channel 4, 10pm)

You may be surprised to know that there's a lot more to Jimmy Carr than a silly laugh and borderline offensive humour. Plenty more. Credit where credit is due after all: this man is a comedy genius with writing skills to boot – he's even penned material for Lily Savage, Bo Selecta! and Meet Ricky Gervais before now. However, for those who are more than familiar with Jimmy's work and aren't satisfied with his year-round tours and television efforts in that they're just not enough to satisfy your cravings, you'll no doubt be pleased to see that he's back on our screens tonight as, filmed in November of last year at London's Hammersmith Apollo, the award-winning funnyman performs his eighth live show.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Donny Osmond. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Life Story. (R) **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.15 Countryfile. The team reports from Lancashire, where John Craven uncovers a landscape that was once a true spectacle, but is now almost lost to the ravages of time.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, and there are performances by Andre Rieu with Alfie Boe, and the Lord of the Dance troupe.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Towneley Hall near Burnley in Lancashire, where items include a collection of cut-throat razors, a mosaic and Lone Ranger memorabilia.

9.00 Remember Me. Care worker Hannah goes to visit Tom in hospital and is shocked to hear he has escaped, so detective Rob Fairholme opens a missing persons investigation. Hannah pleads with him to search in Scarborough, haunted by the old folk songs she found in the pensioner's house, but the detective isn't convinced by her hunch and continues his search closer to home. Visiting Tom's home, he finds the ripped photo of the man as a boy - as well as documents revealing he once had a wife who was killed in tragic circumstances. Meanwhile, the post-mortem on social worker Alison Denning proves inconclusive – but oddly, it does show that the dead woman had water in her lungs.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Southampton v Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur v Everton.

11.30 The Apprentice. The entrepreneurs head to the Royal Bath & West Show. (R)

12.30 Film: Color of Night. (1994) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Countryfile. (R) **8.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.20** International Rugby Union. **1.20** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **5.30** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R)

6.15 Flog It! Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey value collectibles in Monmouth, Wales, and Paul Martin explores the countryside that inspired Laura Ashley's designs. (R)

7.00 Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom. The team explores the art of medieval combat and the construction of a castle's defences, examining the ingenious features 13th-century builders came up with to withstand attacks. (R)

8.00 The Mekong River with Sue Perkins. The comedienne concludes her epic journey along the Southeast Asian river as she follows the Mekong through China to its source in the Himalayas. Last in the series.

9.00 World's Greatest Food Markets. Billingsgate merchant Roger Barton pits himself against traders at New Delhi's Azadpur fruit and vegetable market, which provides food for the whole of India. Last in the series.

10.00 Russell Howard's Good News. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R)

10.30 The Wrong Mans. Sam and Phil take a wounded Marat to Phil's house, but with MI5 agent Smoke closing in on them, the hapless duo find they have become high-profile fugitives. (R)

11.00 The Wrong Mans. Sam and Phil realise they must put themselves right in the line of fire to expose the plot, save Bracknell, uncover double agents and rescue their loved ones. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the evening session from the Barbican Centre in York.

12.20 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. Extended highlights from today's matches. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35 Film:** Carry On Again Doctor. (1969) **1.20** The Unforgettable Pat Phoenix. (R) **1.55** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Keep It in the Family. With this year's series of I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! well under way, six former residents of the jungle – Katie Price, Helen Flanagan, Joe Pasquale, Joe Swash, Kim Woodburn and Sinitta – provide assistance as two families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. The stars each hold the clue to a big prize, from new cars to holidays in the sun, and face being sent through a trapdoor as the contestants decide whether to swap, drop or keep it in the family. Bradley Walsh hosts. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor Results. The remaining contestants wait with bated breath as Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and which acts will be battling it out in the sing-off for a place in next week's semi-final.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec interview today's eliminated contestant about their time in the camp, their jungle likes and dislikes, and who they are tipping to win. But before that, the Geordie duo present the usual round-up of highlights from the past 24 hours as the celebrities struggle through another day of hardship in the bug-infested Australian wilderness.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 The Cube. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **7.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35 Film:** Inkheart. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **5.45 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. (2009) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of John Leguizamo.

7.30 Channel 4 News.

8.00 The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History. With access to the first nationwide survey and state-of-the-art drones mapping the Great Wall of China, this documentary offers new evidence that reveals its extraordinary magnitude, rewrites its millennia-long history and decodes its complex signals system. Using cutting-edge chemistry, the programme also finds out what has kept the wall standing for so long – a simple cooking ingredient found in kitchens across the world.

9.00 Homeland. As the CIA thriller continues, Carrie organises a last-ditch operation, while Lockhart and Martha do their utmost to stall Inter-Services Intelligence. Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Tracy Letts and Laila Robins star.

10.00 Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking. Stand-up comedy with the host of 8 Out of 10 Cats, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November last year, featuring his familiar brand of near-the-knuckle humour.

11.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Comedian and actor Russell Brand talks about his new book Revolution, and French DJ superstar David Guetta discusses his latest single. With music from Kiesza. (R)

12.05 Confessions of a Doctor. Eight doctors lift the lid on their working lives in the consulting room. (R) **1.05** According to Jim. (R) **1.25** American Football Live. Kansas City Chiefs v Denver Broncos (Kick-off 1.30am). Coverage of the week 13 fixture from Arrowhead Stadium, where the AFC West rivals face each other. **4.45** Snowman Triathlon. Action from Snowdonia National Park. (R) **5.10** Win It Cook It. (R) **5.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** Seaside Antics. **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30 Film:** Noel. (2004) Drama, starring Susan Sarandon. **3.20 Film:** Matchmaker Santa. (2012) Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. **5.00 Film:** Annie Claus Is Coming to Town. (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.

6.45 5 News Weekend.

6.50 Film: Planet of the Apes. (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet and is captured and enslaved by the ruling race of highly intelligent apes. Luckily, he is helped by a sympathetic chimpanzee – but then discovers a shocking secret. Remake of the 1960s sci-fi adventure, directed by Tim Burton and starring Mark Wahlberg, Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Roth, and featuring a cameo appearance from the original film's star Charlton Heston. Edited for language.

9.00 Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) Premiere. Mercenary leader Barney Ross is recruited by the CIA to recover a top-secret package, only to come to blows with a rival band of hired guns. Barney swears revenge when the other faction kill his protege, and leads his men on a mission to stop their enemies taking over a former Soviet nuclear facility. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone.

11.05 Film: Universal Soldier. (1992) Two dead soldiers reanimated in a military experiment recognise each other as old enemies and pursue their vendettas. Sci-fi thriller, with Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dolph Lundgren.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Doctor Who **9.00** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Some Girls **12.00** Life Is Toff **12.30** Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2012 **1.30** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.00** The Revolution Will Be Televised

BBC Four

7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** The Day of the Triffids **9.00** Blondie: One Way or Another **10.10 Film:** Ca$h (2008) **11.50** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **12.50** Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **1.50** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC

ITV2

11.30 The X Factor **1.25** The Xtra Factor **2.25** Kiesza: The Hot Desk **2.40 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.50 Film:** She's the Man (2006) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.05** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.05** Educating Joey Essex: Space Cadet **12.05** Two and a Half Men **1.00** Dads **1.25** Fake Reaction **2.00** The Vampire Diaries **2.45** Kiesza: The Hot Desk

ITV3

11.20 A Touch of Frost **1.35 Film:** Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **3.40 Film:** The Nun's Story (1959) **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10 Film:** The Elephant Man (1980) **2.20** Judge Judy **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

12.45 Live Darts. **5.00** Alias Smith and Jones **6.00** Cheers **6.35** World of Sport: Dare Devils **6.45** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.00 Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **1.00** Minder **2.00** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Made in Chelsea **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.00 Film:** Chalet Girl (2011) **3.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** Melissa & Joey **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.30** The Inbetweeners: Their Favourite Episodes **11.45** The Inbetweeners Go Global **12.50** Drifters **1.25** Bad Robots **1.55** New Girl **2.45** Rules of Engagement

Film4

11.00 Broken Lance (1954) **1.00** Bride and Prejudice (2004) **3.15** Ramona and Beezus (2010) **5.20** Scrooged (1988) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.55** Premonition (2007) **12.50** A Story of Children and Film (2013) **3.05** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The National Tree, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A loving father plants a tree the day his son is born. Years later, when the boy is a teenager, it is selected to be the national Christmas tree, so father and son embark on a life-changing journey across the country to deliver it for replanting at the White House. Drama, starring Andrew McCarthy and Evan Williams. (2009)

TUESDAY
Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)

We Own the Night, Friday, ITV, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY
The 13th Warrior, BBC1, 12.10am
A disgraced nobleman exiled from his Baghdad home joins forces with Norse warriors at the close of the first millennium, and ends up battling seemingly invincible attackers during an epic journey. Action adventure adapted from the novel Eaters of the Dead by Michael Crichton, starring Antonio Banderas, Diane Venora, Dennis Storhi, Vladimir Kulich and Omar Sharif. (1999)

THURSDAY
Die Another Day, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. During the pursuit of the terrorist he was investigating before his capture, he discovers a connection with a British billionaire who has constructed a devastating orbital weapon. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2002)

FRIDAY
We Own the Night, ITV, 11.15pm
The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds – while his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his sibling is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall. (2007)

PICK OF THE WEEK

New series proves to be a breeze for Richard

Fashion may come and go, but one constant in the UK is our obsession with the weather. Maybe it's the fact that as an island so small we don't generate our own weather systems but have to make do with cast-offs from other countries.

In a new series, Richard Hammond will be revealing the hidden secrets at the heart of some of the world's most extreme weather, experiencing extraordinary phenomena first-hand.

Okay, some of the dialogue may be a little redundant, such as "Wherever you live on the planet, weather shapes your world."

That aside, Hammond will be 'stripping weather back to its basics,' and in this wind-centric opener he explains how wind begins.

He kicks things off with another spot of slightly awkward dialogue: "There is a powerful, invisible force that moves around us, almost unnoticed…"

Hmmm. While the script could have done with more levity in the Top Gear vein, WWWRH excels in the visuals department, whether it's glorious high definition cloudscapes or obligatory shots of devastation.

There are some scenes which look like a mash up of Twister and The Dark Knight as Hammond attempts to measure the speed of a tornado.

His journey starts in New Hampshire, USA.

You might think of the region as a world of sunshine, russet leaves in the autumn and moneyed Americans enjoying expensive past times.

However, the state can also look like something from the Arctic as Hammond discovers when he braves temperatures of -45C on top of Mount Washington.

On April 12, 1934, the local weather station measured one of the fastest wind speeds ever recorded on land: 231mph.

Remarkably, winds in the area hit hurricane force more than 100 days in the year.

Going outside is not advisable unless you're covered from head to toe in well insulated protective gear. And don't forget your goggles, unless you want frozen eyeballs.

Given the fact a light wind on your face measures around 5mph; 15mph is enough to turn an umbrella inside out; 45mph can wreck a garden fence, and 55mph can bring a shed down, the sight of Hammond in 65 to 85mph winds is enough to make you put an extra bar on the fire.

A good job there's subtitles as our host struggles to get his words out. Just a pity he doesn't tie his hat on.

Later, there's an experiment to create a fire whirlwind, and a tense moment when it looks like a pricey camera may have been lost in the vertical inferno.

Clearly a glutton for punishment, Richard decides to stand in the middle of a man-made tornado at the 'WindEEE' Research Institute in Canada. It's the only place on Earth which can duplicate the dynamics of a tornado.

Little wonder Hammond gets goosebumps, and not just because he's a bit chilly.

If this leaves you hungry for more, don't miss next week's edition when 'Hamster' attempts to capture a cloud in the hope of seeing how much it weighs. Yes, really.

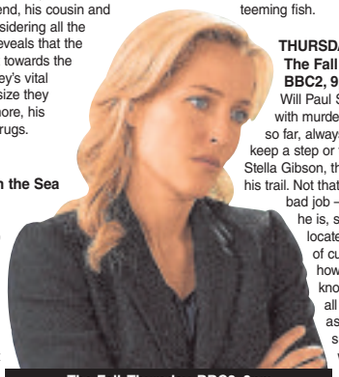
Wild Weather with Richard Hammond, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The British Property Boom
Channel 4, 8pm
House prices have been rising at record speeds around the UK, and naturally that has far-reaching effects for many of us. This week's show investigates the impact on buyers and sellers, with first-time buyers such as Dionne used as an example of how hard it can be to get on the property ladder. She faces having to ask her retired mother, Denise, to sell the family home to stand a chance of buying her own home. We also meet Barbara, a Hackney resident who has been priced out of the area where she was born. Plus, there's a look at some of the overseas buyers purchasing investment flats in the capital that could otherwise have been snapped up by locals. And if you're wondering what the smallest house on the market in London will cost, then brace yourselves. A property measuring just six feet wide is on the market for a whopping £235,000.

TUESDAY
Autopsy: The Last Hours of Elvis Presley
Channel 5, 9pm
Dr Richard Shepherd has been linked to some of the most iconic celebrities in history – it's just a shame that none of them are alive to enjoy his company. The forensic pathologist is now famous for his in-depth televised autopsies in which he analyses the untimely deaths of famous folk notorious for their often self-inflicted ill health. Tonight, as the title suggests, he kicks of this new series by focusing on Elvis Presley. Robert picks through the facts surrounding the singer's demise at his Memphis home Graceland in August 1977, using accounts from his best friend, his cousin and his private nurse, as well as considering all the medical facts. The programme reveals that the post-mortem report showed that towards the end of his life, nearly all of Presley's vital organs were almost double the size they should have been, and what's more, his system was full of prescription drugs.

WEDNESDAY
Living on the Edge: Blood in the Sea
Channel 5, 7pm
New series. Anthropologist and adventurer Chris Terrill travels to the world's most extreme environments to find out how and why people live in the grip of nature at its harshest. In the first edition, he heads to Mauritania to spend time with fishermen who work the rich but dangerous waters off the north-west coast of Africa. Travelling from Nouadhibou in the north to the capital Nouakchott in the south, Chris and his interpreter Ahmed Taleb witness the sight of a thousand boats fighting to get through the violent surf as it breaks on to the beaches and also discover a secret paradise where the desert meets the sea and millions of birds feed on the teeming fish.


The Fall, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Fall
BBC2, 9pm
Will Paul Spector get away with murder? He has done so far, always managing to keep a step or two ahead of Stella Gibson, the detective on his trail. Not that she's doing a bad job – she knows who he is, she just can't locate this slipperiest of customers. He, however, seems to know where she is all the time – and as a result, Gibson suspects he's witnessed her confrontation with Burns in her hotel room. But how will Burns react when she tells him? As if the idea of Spector keeping tabs on her isn't disturbing enough, she then realises he's been visiting one of his surviving victims in hospital – but this fact allows her to finally set up a surveillance operation on him. But the need to find the evidence that will bring about Spector's arrest intensifies when a body matching the description of Rose Stagg is discovered.

FRIDAY
The Martin Lewis Money Show
ITV, 8pm
For a man who's become synonymous with great money saving ideas, you'd think Martin Lewis would be on a par with some of the cash-hungry wannabes in The Apprentice, but not a bit of it. "I certainly don't preach about how to make money; that's not really my thing at all, or my passion to be honest," he explains. "I still don't consider myself to be an entrepreneur. I'm somebody who set up a website and I consider myself to be a journalist and consumer campaigner." This week, Martin helps customers reclaim lost cash after switching energy suppliers. He also reveals how companies don't have to give this money back unless they are asked. Plus, the eponymous host reveals how to buy high-street fashion abroad, take a budget flight back to the UK and still make a saving.

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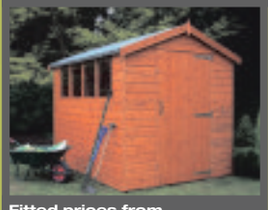
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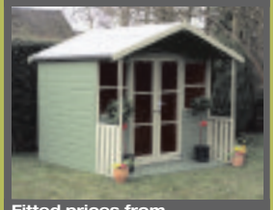
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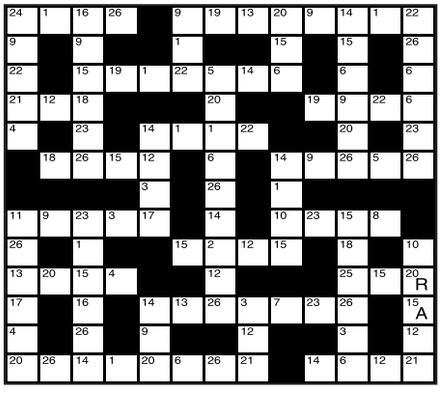
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



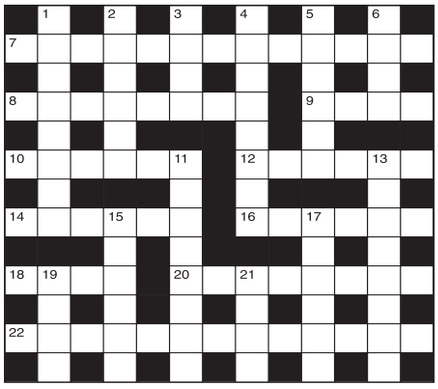
1	14
2	15 A
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20 R
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	Y	D	M	V	C	R	H	K	Q	F	U	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	A	T	X	O	G	B	P	J	Z	W	L	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Very busy describing 22 Across perhaps (2,4,2,5)
8. An ironclad excuse for not buying luxuries (8)
9. They're neat! (4)
10. Take off a garment I'd first put on back-to-front (6)
12. Smart evergreen (6)
14. Such games are not openly played (6)
16. Ring again to cancel (6)
18. It has caused many deaths in Vietnam (4)
20. Pains grip sick Greek hero (8)
22. It was frightful, as a rule! (5,2,6)

Down

1. Perform the state a monetary service (8)
2. It's entertainment value is questionable (6)
3. Become engaged in some sharp practice (4)
4. He works so that others may play (8)
5. Disturbance of increasing volume (6)
6. On which many initial declarations of love have been made (4)
11. He fights in the ring (8)
13. Does she preach no involvement? (8)
15. Royal house that is divided internally, naturally (6)
17. Comrade has an attempt not worth considering (6)
19. Not now the capital of Norway (4)
21. Has old fashioned style (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Speedily (13)
8. Lees (8)
9. Cistern (4)
10. Crash (4-2)
12. Drub (6)
14. Muscular (6)
16. Summary (6)
18. Snatch (4)
20. Innate (8)
22. Stupidity (13)

Down

1. Outside (8)
2. Yearn for (6)
3. Dreadful (4)
4. Despot (8)
5. Assemble (6)
6. Scheme (4)
11. Bodily (8)
13. Monotony (8)
15. Move unsteadily (6)
17. Powerful (6)
19. Space (4)
21. Conceal (4)

Sudoku

		9	5					8
2				7	9	3	5	
				8				7
	2		8				6	
9		8	7		3	2		
	4				1		7	
		3		9			1	
	5	6	2					9
1				5	7	4		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	4	5	8	1	2	9	7
5	8	7	2	3	9	4	1	6
2	1	9	6	4	7	5	8	3
7	5	3	4	1	8	9	6	2
1	9	2	3	7	6	8	4	5
8	4	6	9	2	5	7	3	1
3	2	8	1	5	4	6	7	9
9	7	5	8	6	3	1	2	4
4	6	1	7	9	2	3	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Isis; 8 Conviction; 9 Drawback; 10 Magi; 12 Befell; 14 Please; 15 Dimple; 17 Theory; 18 Ages; 19 Bulletin; 21 Oppressors; 22 Eats. Down: 2 Shortening; 3 Scow; 4 On call; 5 Pick up; 6 Stampede; 7 Anti; 11 Go straight; 13 Exposure; 16 Emboss; 17 Tallow; 18 Atom; 20 Ease. QUICK - Across: 1 Seem; 8 Answer back; 9 Babyhood; 10 Camp; 12 Cajole; 14 Deride; 15 Billow; 17 Modern; 18 Snug; 19 Contrite; 21 Counteract; 22 Aunt. Down: 2 Excavation; 3 Many; 4 Ashore; 5 Needed; 6 Obscured; 7 Skip; 11 Moderation; 13 Obliging; 16 Wicked; 17 Manual; 18 Sick; 20 Rota.

Quiz

1. Name the famous showbiz parents of entertainer Liza Minnelli.
2. In which city was Christopher Columbus born?
3. Of which element is diamond a form?
4. What was the name of Donald Campbell's record-breaking boats and cars?
5. Of which ocean does the Kara Sea form a part?
6. What was the first nuclear-powered submarine?
7. Who, in 1956, was the first European Footballer of the Year?
8. Which musical instrument evolved from the sackbut?
9. To which family of birds do canaries and siskins belong?
10. Who was the first English actor to be knighted?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Collie; 2 Colette; 3 Scottish; 4 Storm petrel; 5 Inner Hebrides; 6 Lulu; 7 Munich; 8 George II; 9 Gary Mabbutt; 10 William Randolph Hearst.

Niner: POLICEMAN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4823 gives a wild animal,
7851239 gives another wild animal,
26389278 gives a dog.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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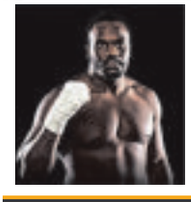
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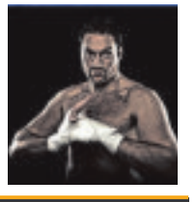
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Please call the chronicle team on 01902 319 588

Fares to rise for ring and ride bus service

RING and ride buses are having their funding slashed by £700,000 with fares to use them in the evening set to double.

Council leaders in the West Midlands will give £7.8 million to run the service next year, down from £8.5m for the current year. It will mean the £1 fare for using the service after 7pm will go to £2. But the Sunday service scrapped this year will be brought back, with a £2 charge.

The £1 for using it Monday to Friday before 7pm is fixed.

Around 22,000 people use the door-to-door minibuses, operated by charity West Midlands Special Needs Transport. It runs across Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Earlier this year the 60p fare went up to £1.

Councillor Richard Worrall, who had previously led a 56,000 name petition against cuts, said council and transport bosses were 'making the best of a bad situation'.

Hospital trust says sorry to victims of jailed neurosurgeon

THE hospital trust that employed a neurosurgeon who committed multiple sex offences against vulnerable female patients has apologised to his victims.

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust admitted it may have missed a chance to stop Nafees Hamid and offered 'an unreserved apology' to six of its former patients after the consultant neurosurgeon's conviction.

Sex offender Nafees Hamid has been jailed

Hamid , who has been jailed for 16 years, was previously an award-winning specialist neurosurgeon at the city's Queen Elizabeth and Priory Hospitals.

The trust said an email complaining of 'inappropriate behaviour' by Hamid was sent to it in 2009, but never raised with senior managers, in breach of its policies.

The email was only brought to the attention of hospital bosses when the woman again contacted the trust in November last year, during the police investigation into Hamid's offending.

Hamid's offending took place between 2012 and 2013 at the city's private Priory Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is run by the NHS trust.

The trust said the complaint was dealt with by an employee who sought an explanation from Hamid, which was accepted. However, in a statement it added: "The policy and guidance in place at the time stated that a complaint of this nature should have been escalated and investigated according to trust procedure rather than being dealt with at source."

A spokesman said: "The trust accepts that by not following proper procedures in dealing with the 2009 complaint, an opportunity was potentially missed to prevent the subsequent offences that occurred. For this, we offer an unreserved apology to Nafees Hamid's victims."

Dame Julie Moore, the trust's chief executive, said an inquiry would continue.

Call for anti-freeze action

Veterinary nurse Nicola Bond with pet cat Poppy is backing the campaign

VETS have made calls changes to be made to anti-freeze products, to protect people's pets from harm.

Staff at White Cross Vets, in Regent Street, Tividale, say they have treated several pets in recent weeks who have ingested the sweet-tasting liquid and died from kidney failure as a result. They are now urging people to sign a petition calling on manufactures to add a bittering agent to make the taste less appealing to pets.

Clinic director Bonnie Leibowitch said: "We see too many poisoned pets across our practices every year who are in distress after swallowing antifreeze either as a terrible accident or a malicious act of cruelty.

"The deadly ingredient Ethylene Glycol is highly toxic and because of its sweet taste it is especially appealing to pets but just one teaspoon is enough to kill a cat and a tablespoon will kill a dog."

Naomi Fountain, whose pet cat Mischief died of antifreeze poisoning in 2009, is petitioning the Government to change existing laws.

She said: "Currently our petition has over 20,000 signatures."

To sign it or to get more information visit www.whitecrossvets.co.uk or call (01384) 884 141.

Plans in motion for 2015 Black Country festival

THE team behind the first Black Country festival are inviting applications from people hoping to host events in 2015.

Tens of thousands of people enjoyed hundreds of themed events marking official Black Country Day on July 14.

Organisers are already planning an even bigger event for next year.

Showcase

Committee member Stephen Pitts said: "We were delighted with the reaction of the public, not just at the showcase event in Dudley but at all the other events that went on throughout the four boroughs and in particular the number of people who had their own Black Country themed parties."

He added: "The backing the public has given the festival in its inaugural year has put us in a very strong position to approach various partners and councils across the Black Country to help put on something truly special next year."

Anyone with an act, a stall or an event they would like to be included in next year's festival should email info@blackcountryfestival.co.uk with details.

Parcel firm is to deliver festive boost for jobs

SIX hundred jobs have been created at a parcel delivery firm's sorting centre to deal with the Christmas rush.

Yodel, which has a main sorting centre on the Willenhall-Darlaston border, has created the seasonal roles, which include warehouse staff and drivers.

Bosses say they have already filled 450 vacancies and are looking for an additional 150 sorting staff for its centre in Owen Road.

The company, which handles more than 145 million parcels per year, is recruiting 5,000 part-time and full-time staff across the UK in preparation for the Christmas peak, when it expects to handle up a million parcels a day.

Bosses say that although these are seasonal positions for the festive period, many of the roles could become permanent.

Yodel executive chairman Dick Stead said: "Many of the vacancies are flexible and perfect for those who want to fit work around families, or who have retired but want to remain active and earn some extra cash.

"Others are full-time and we expect many people to stay on beyond December."

Extended semi has been very well maintained

SITUATED at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac, this extended semi-detached property in Grove Hill, Walsall has been maintained to an excellent standard throughout.

Having a newly fitted bathroom and attractive conservatory, it is for sale through Edwards Moore at £195,000.

With a low maintenance private rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing it has a reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen with cream units with dark wood trims and matching working surfaces, utility, study/playroom, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, garden and large frontage with off road parking.

For further information contact Edwards Moore on 01922 621411 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk

Spacious three-bed townhouse for sale

A surprisingly spacious three-bedroomed end town house in High Street, Bloxwich is an ideal first time buy.

Having a re-fitted shower room, it is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £99,950.

With majority double glazing it has an entrance hall with under-stairs storage, a WC , kitchen with pine-effect units, a built-in oven, hob and extractor fan, integrated refrigerator and storage/pantry cupboard, an L-shaped lounge/diner with patio doors, three bedrooms, all with wardrobes, shower room and a paved rear garden with outside stores and a gate.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01922 478104 or visit www.skitts.net

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VIEWING ADVISED

BAYNTON RD, WILLENHALL

Extended Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge / Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. The Garage Is Part Converted Into A Utility Room & Storage Area. D/G. G/C/H. O/R/P. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£145,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

HORTON PLACE, DARLASTON

Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Separate W.C And First Floor Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens. Off Road Parking.

£95,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

BROOKHILL CLOSE, W'HALL

Three Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C. And First Floor Bathroom. G/C/H. D/G. Gardens To Front & Rear. Detached Garage.

£95,000

CHARACTER PROPERTY

BUSH STREET, DARLASTON

Three Bed Cottage Style Detached Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms & En-Suite W.C To Master Bed. Outside Is Gated Parking, Double Garage With Office & Garden.

£195,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

LODGE STREET, WILLENHALL

Three Bedroom Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Rear Garden.

£114,995

REDUCED

CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Semi Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. Part D/G. G/C/H. Off Road Parking & Garage. Rear Garden.

£123,995

TREETOPS DRIVE, WILLENHALL

One Bed First Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom And Bathroom. Also Having Full UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Outside There Is A Garage In Separate Block.

£65,000

GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Mid Terraced. Comprises Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, And Ground Floor Bathroom. G/C/H, D/G. Close To Willenhall Town Centre. Great BTL Investment Property.

£72.500

VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Mid Terrace, Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, First Floor Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Front And Rear Gardens. Great First Time Buy Or Buy To Let.

£80,000

BLOXWICH RD STH, W'HALL

Spacious Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment, Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, En-Suite Shower Room & Family Bathroom. G/C/H, D/G. Allocated Parking And Communal Courtyard.

£81,500

GREAT FIRST TIME BUY

RUGELEY AVENUE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Enclosed Side Access & Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Excellent First Time Buy Or BTL Investment!

£89,995

CHAUCER AVE, SHORT HEATH

Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Side Storage Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/ Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£89,995

GREAT FTB / BTL

LIME AVENUE, BENTLEY

Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Separate Utility Area, Fitted Shower Room & Separate WC. D/G. G/C/H. Off Road Parking & Enclosed Rear Garden.

£100,000

GREAT FIRST TIME BUY

STAR CLOSE, BENTLEY

Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Shower Room, D/G, G/C/H, Gardens To Front & Rear. MUST VIEW!

£100,000

VIEWING ADVISED

MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON

Superbly Presented Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, & Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Garden To Front, Parking To Side & Generous Rear Garden. MUST VIEW!

£107,500

THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL

Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway To The Fore Allowing Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles And A Private Enclosed Rear Garden.

£110,000

MEMORIAL CL, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Shower Room. D/G & G/C/H. Gardens And Driveway To The Front/Side And An Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£114,995

NEW INSTRUCTION

ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom With Bath & Shower And First Floor W.C Room. D/G. G/C/H. Rear Garden.

£115,000

REDUCED

CHAUCER AVE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, 16ft Conservatory, Shower Room, Enclosed Side Access With Brick Built Outbuilding. D/G & G/C/H. O/R/P & Rear Garden.

£117,500

ONLY ONE PLOT REMAINING

LANE HEAD CLOSE, W'HALL

Two Bed End Town House. Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, En-suite Shower Room To Master & Bathroom. DG & GCH. Off Road Parking To Fore & Enclosed Rear Garden .

£125,000

GOREY CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge, Recently Re-Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Which Has Also Been Re-Fitted And Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Parking To Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£130,000

BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD

Modern Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite To Master Bed & Bathroom, Garage, Garden To The Front With Off Road Parking & An Fully Enclosed Rear Garden.

£130,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

SOBERTON CLOSE, WEDNESFIELD

Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Gardens To Front And Rear. Driveway Parking & Detached Garage.

£135,000

COPPICE FARM WAY, W'HALL

Extended Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room And Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazed And Gas Central Heated. Driveway Parking To The Fore And Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£140,000

WILLENHALL RD, BILSTON

Extended Three Bed Semi Detached House Comprising Of Entrance Porch And Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Extended Modern Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C, First Floor Family Bathroom. Generous Garden To The Front And Side. Off Road Parking & Garage. Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£149,995

SHEPWELL GREEN, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow. Comprises Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Ground Floor Bedroom, Two Bathrooms, Two First Floor Bedrooms, GCH, DG, Detached Garage, Front & Rear Gardens.

£150,000

REDUCED

BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, WILLENHALL

Extended Five Bed Semi Detached Having Entrance Porch & Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Ground Floor W.C, Additional Sitting Room And Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Driveway.

£155,000

EXTENSIVE GARDENS

ARNHEM ROAD, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Three Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, W.C, Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Extensive Gardens To The Rear.

£155,000

GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms & Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking & Garage. Enclosed Rear Garden.

£550 PCM

YALE ROAD, WILLENHALL

Modern Three Bed Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, W.C, Lounge Diner, Integral Garage, En-suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking & An Enclosed Garden To The Rear. Situated Close To Good Local Schools, Transport Links And Amenities.

£650 PCM

NEW INSTRUCTION

BUCKINGHAM DR, WILLENHALL

Recently Renovated Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, 28ft Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Laundry/Storage Room And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking. Rear Garden.

£155,000

HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM

Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995

LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION

Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

£180,000

VIEWING ADVISED

RIVERBANK RD, WILLENHALL

Immaculate Four Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, En-Suite Shower To The Master & Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, Garage, Gardens Front & Rear.

£195,000

ANNEXE

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

£280,000

VIEWING ADVISED

BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL

Impressive Four Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of 24ft Lounge, Dining Room, Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Luxurious Bathroom, Separate W.C, Feature Games Room. Brick Built Workshop. Secure Parking & Garden.

£305,000

MEMORIAL CLOSE, W'HALL

Four Bedroom Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Integral Garage/Storage Area And Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Double Driveway. Rear Garden.

£650 PCM

DERWENT CLOSE, W'HALL

Three Bed Detached Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, W.C, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen & Utility Room. En-Suite To Master, Family Bathroom. Ample Off Road Parking To The Front And An Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£650 PCM

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Energy Rating C — NEW

Shelfield
Holmbridge Grove
- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room
- kitchen
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway, gardens
- Viewing Essential

OIRO £249,950

Energy Rating D — NEW

Willenhall
Buttermere Grove, New Invention
- Immaculate Detached Home
- Gas Central Heated, Double Glazing
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility
- Downstairs WC
- 4 Bedrooms, En-suite
- Bathroom, Garage
- Driveway, Gardens to front & Rear

OIRO £209,950

Energy Rating E — NEW

Essington
Rowan Drive
- Modern Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen
- Large Split level Lounge/Dining Room
- Utility, Guest Cloaks/WC
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC
- Block Paved Parking
- Rear Garden, No onward Chain

OIEO £179,950

Energy Rating D — NEW

Willenhall
Balmoral Drive, Short Heath
- Semi-detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Parking and gardens

OIRO £139,995

Energy Rating C — NEW

Walsall
Bramcote Way, Rushall
- Modern End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms (Master with En-suite)
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Garage
- Driveway, Front & Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain

£134,500

Energy Rating F — NEW

Wednesfield
Stubby Lane
- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway and gardens
- Must View

OIRO £125,995

Energy Rating D — NEW

Willenhall
Myrtle Close
- Semi-detached house
- Gas centrally heated & PVCu double glazed
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Tandem length garage, good sized driveway & gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

OIRO £114,950

Energy Rating C — NEW

Walsall
Balmoral Way, Cavendish Park
- Modern starter home
- Gas central heating
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking and garden
- No Onward Chain

OIRO £112,950

Energy Rating C — NEW

Willenhall
Temple Road
- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- kitchen
- Bathroom/WC
- 2 bedrooms
- Neatly maintained gardens

OIRO £85,000

Energy Rating C — NEW

Walsall
School Lofts, Cecil Street
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing, Electric Heating
- Spacious Lounge
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room/WC
- Allocated Parking
- Easy Access to Amenities

OIRO £79,950

Energy Rating C

Willenhall
Clarkes Lane
- First Floor Flat
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Kitchen, lounge
- 2 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Outside store
- Communal gardens

Offers Over £70,000

Energy Rating D

Essington
Hill Street
- Spacious first floor flat
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom + WC
- Outside store
- Garage (available to rent)
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

OIRO £79,995

Energy Rating E

Walsall
Brindley Close, Beechdale
- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Gardens to fore and rear

OIRO £88,950

Energy Rating C

Pelsall
Clockmill Avenue
- Mid Town House
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms
- Shower Room/WC
- Brick Built Stores
- Rear Garden, Parking
- No Onward Chain

OIRO £114,950

Energy Rating C

Willenhall
Lichfield Road
- Detached coach house
- Heated and glazed
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Garage, parking, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

OIEO £115,000

Energy Rating C

Bloxwich
Grenfell Road
- Mid town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway and gardens
- Must View

OIRO £120,000

Energy Rating D

Pelsall
Highfield Road
- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Detached garage, driveway
- Fore and rear gardens

OIRO £125,000

Energy Rating E

Wednesbury
Johnson Road, Darlaston
- End town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Kitchen, lounge
- Dining room
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking, garage, gardens

OIRO £130,000

Energy Rating E

Bentley
Monmouth Road
- Detached dormer bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Garage, parking, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

OIRO £149,950

Energy Rating D

Pelsall
Spinney Close
- Semi detached dormer house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, utility/WC
- 2 ground floor bedrooms (one could be used as a dining room)
- Large first floor bedroom, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

OIRO £154,950

Energy Rating D

Walsall
St Pauls Crescent, Pelsall
- Well presented semi- detached house
- Double Glazed & Centrally Heated
- 3 bedrooms
- Re-fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Conservatory, Garage
- Driveway, Rear Garden

OIRO £169,950

Energy Rating E

Walsall
Wilkes Avenue, Bentley
- Traditional Detached Bungalow
- Large Corner Plot
- Gas Central Heating
- Three Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Shower Room, Garage
- Large Driveway, Front
- Side & Rear Gardens

OIEO £210,000

Energy Rating D

Pelsall
Millers Walk
- Immaculately presented throughout detached house
- Gas centrally heated & PVCu double glazed
- Lounge & interconnecting dining room
- Breakfast room/kitchen
- 5 excellent bedrooms, master with en-suite shower/WC
- Single car garage, driveway parking
- Well kept landscaped gardens
- Viewing Essential

OIEO £250,000

Energy Rating D

Brownhills
Watling Street
- Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen, conservatory
- Granny Annexe
- 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms/WC
- Driveway and gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

OIRO £250,000

Energy Rating D

Shareshill
Spires Croft
- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Garage, drive, gardens
- Must View

OIRO £329,950

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW

EPC: C

BLOXWICH
SELMANS HILL

- Imposing traditional detached residence situated on much favoured road, offering spacious family living accommodation which should be viewed internally to be appreciated
- Four good bedrooms
- Breakfast kitchen
- Through lounge and separate dining room
- First floor bathroom and w.c
- Tandem length garage, utility area and w.c
- Lovely established rear garden
- Ample off road parking to the fore
- Gas radiator central heating

£275,000 OFFERS

STAR BUY

NEW

EPC: E

WALSALL
WEST BROMWICH ROAD

- Considerably improved Victorian style end terraced property situated in convenient location near to The Broadway, Walsall
- Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Superb fitted bathroom with roll top bath and separate shower cubicle
- Gas central heating

£99,950 OFFERS

FEATURED PROPERTY

NEW

EPC: C

BLOXWICH
WETHERBY ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi detached residence situated in popular Turnberry Road development
- Delightfully located with local countryside views to the fore
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Full width rear lounge/dining room
- Garage currently used as study/ utilty room and w.c
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden with timber decked patio
- Off road parking to the fore

£159,950 OFFERS

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on - **WALSALL 01922 478104**

NEW

EPC: D

BLOXWICH
HIGH STREET

- Surprisingly spacious end town house style property
- Three bedrooms all with built in storage
- Re-fitted shower room
- Generous lounge/diner
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazed
- Downstairs W.C

£99,950 OFFERS

NEW

EPC: D

BLOXWICH
BROAD LANE

- Town house style property situated in popular Broad Lane location
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fire place
- Upstairs bathroom
- Double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Downstairs W.C

£94,950 OFFERS

NEW

EPC: TBC

ESSINGTON
SNEYD LANE

- Well maintained & pleasantly appointed end town house style property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fire place
- Re-fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- Downstairs w.c
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Detached garage and off road parking

£190,000 OFFERS

NEW

EPC:D

WALSALL
FOSTER STREET

- Well maintained & pleasantly appointed end town house style property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fire place
- Re-fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- Downstairs w.c
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Detached garage and off road parking

£87,950 OFFERS

REDUCED

EPC: C

ESSINGTON
HIGH HILL

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style detached property situated in popular Essington village location
- Well maintained accommodation thought ideal for the family purchaser
- Three bedrooms
- 21ft through lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- First floor bathroom with shower

£214,950 OFFERS

EPC: F

PELSALL
OLD TOWN LANE

- Charming character Victorian style end terraced property conveniently situated near to Pelsall Village centre
- Ideal first time purchase
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms

OFFERS OVER £130,000

EPC: D

BEECHDALE, WALSALL
REMINGTON ROAD

- Pleasantly presented mid town house style property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazing
- Kitchen diner
- Lounge with feature fire place
- First floor modern style family bathroom

OFFERS OVER £90,000

EPC: D

BLOXWICH
ODELL ROAD

- Town house style property situated in popular and convenient location
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating & upvc double glazed windows
- Pleasant rear garden

£99,950 OFFERS

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MANAGER'S CHOICE

NEW | EPC D

COPPICE FARM
LONG MYND CLOSE

- Impeccably Appointed Detached Property in Highly Sought After Location
- Lounge
- Superb Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Re-Fitted En-Suite
- Integral Garage
- Block Paved Driveway
- Delightful Rear Gardens

£195,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

NEW | EPC D

COPPICE FARM
MILES MEADOW CLOSE

- Extended Modern Style Detached Property in Popular Cul De Sac Location
- Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Guests WC
- Four Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Block Paved Driveway
- Gardens

£180,000

FEATURED PROPERTY

NEW | EPC C

WILLENHALL
DELAMERE ROAD

- Modern Style Semi Detached Property in Popular Location
- Requiring Modernisation
- Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage
- Driveway
- Gardens
- No Chain

£109,950

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on - **WILLENHALL 01902 631151**

NEW | EPC D

COPPICE FARM
ULLSWATER ROAD

- Exceptional Detached Residence ● No Chain
- Impressive Secluded Position
- Four Bedrooms ● En-Suite Shower Room
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Conservatory
- Excellent Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility / WC ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Garage & Block Paved Driveway
- Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens

£240,000

NEW | EPC TBC

WILLENHALL
STROUD AVENUE

- Modern style semi detached property
- Popular location
- Lounge
- Impressive refitted dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Garage ● Block paved driveway
- Pleasant front and rear gardens

£150,000

NEW | EPC E

WILLENHALL
DARVEL ROAD (OFF STROUD AV)

- Much improved modern semi detached
- Popular Location
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge with dining area
- Refitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Garage ● Driveway
- Front and rear gardens

£130,000

NEW | EPC F

WILLENHALL
CEDAR ROAD

- Well Presented Semi Detached Bungalow in Popular Location
- Two Bedrooms
- Hall ● Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen ● Shower Room
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Viewing Recommended
- No Upward Chain

£109,950

NEW | EPC D

BENTLEY
LOCKETT CLOSE

- Modern Style Mid Town House
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Part Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing

£105,000

NEW | EPC E

AUCTION PROPERTY

SHORT HEATH
COLTHAM ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached requiring Modernisation in Popular Location
- Hall ● Lounge
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Part Gas Central Heating System
- Long Rear Gardens
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

STARTING BID £85,000

NEW | EPC C

NEW INVENTION
CANNOCK ROAD

- Much Improved Modern Style Mid Town House with No Upward Chain
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage ● Gardens

£82,500

NEW | EPC TBC

WILLENHALL
REGENT STREET

- Period Mid Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- 2/3 Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- No Chain

£75,000

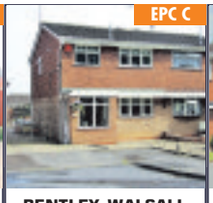
EPC C

WILLENHALL
CADNAM CLOSE

- Superb detached property on corner plot
- Excellent cul-de-sac location
- Three bedrooms ● Refitted bathroom
- Large lounge ● Conservatory
- Impressive refitted dining kitchen
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Carport and garage
- Rear garden

£160,000

EPC C



BENTLEY, WALSALL
TENBURY CLOSE

- Superb Modern Style Semi Detached
- Spacious Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Brand New Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Delightful Landscaped Rear Gardens
- Planning Permission for Two Storey Side Extension

£140,000

EPC D

COPPICE FARM
BEMBRIDGE CLOSE

- Impressive extended modern semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious lounge with dining area
- Superb breakfast kitchen
- Conservatory
- Refitted shower room
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Garage ● Landscaped rear garden

£140,000

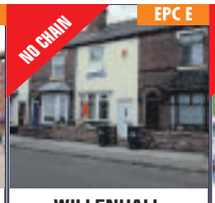
EPC E

COUNTY BRIDGE
WORCESTER ROAD

- Much Improved Semi Detached
- Hall ● Fitted Kitchen
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Impressive Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing ● Gas CH
- Block Paved Driveway
- Superb Large Rear Gardens

£130,000

NO CHAIN | EPC E

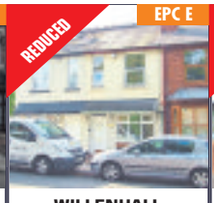


WILLENHALL
ST ANNE'S ROAD

- Period Mid Terrace Property
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Rear Gardens
- No Chain

£85,000

REDUCED | EPC E



WILLENHALL
ROSEHILL

- Improved period style mid terraced property with No chain
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double glazing
- Pleasant rear garden

OFFERS OVER £85,000

NO CHAIN | EPC D

WILLENHALL
HARRY PERKS STREET

- Mid terraced property
- Three good size bedrooms
- Lounge● Kitchen
- Ground floor wet room
- First floor bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Rear garden
- Driveway ● No chain

£84,950

NO CHAIN | EPC D

WILLENHALL
ALBION ROAD

- Period Mid Terrace in Convenient Location
- Lounge ● Dining Room
- Large Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens
- No Chain

£79,950

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Property

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An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Deceptively spacious five-bed dormer home

A DECEPTIVELY spacious five-bedroomed detached dormer bungalow of distinction in Sutton Road, Walsall lies in a sought after area.

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £489,950.

The house features an entrance hall, a front lounge, a rear dining/sitting/kitchen and lobby off, ground floor bedroom ones, a further ground floor bedroom and a ground floor shower room, two first floor bedrooms and a bathroom, a garage with bedroom five behind it. For further information contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 or visit www.fraser-wood.co.uk

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AUCTION

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Address	Saturday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November	Wednesday 12th, 19th & 26th November
20 Yew Tree Lane, Tettenhall, WV6 8UQ SOLD PRIOR	10:00am	10:00am
6 Brocton Close, Bloxwich, WS3 2QD	11:00am	11:00am
54 New Penkridge Road, Cannock, WS11 1HW	12:00pm	12:00pm
11 Pendle Hill, Hednesford, WS12 4LM SOLD PRIOR	12:30pm	12:30pm
For all other lots of Land	By calling in site with auction catalogue to hand	

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AUCTION CATALOGUE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD
www.bootandson.co.uk

LOT 1

29 YEW TREE LANE, TETTENHALL
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Detached bungalow ◆ Two bedrooms
◆ Gas central heating
◆ Double glazing
◆ In need of renovation/improvement
◆ Potential for extension (subject to planning permission)
◆ EPC rating 43
Guide price £220,000 to £240,000

LOT 2

6 BROCTON CLOSE, BLOXWICH
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Mid terraced house
◆ Three bedrooms
◆ Gas central heating
◆ Fully double glazed
◆ Ideal buy to let
◆ EPC rating 71
Guide Price: £80,000 to £90,000

LOT 3

LAND ADJ.39 WATTFIELD CLOSE,BRERETON
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Individual building plot
◆ With benefit of planning permission to erect an individual detached two bedroomed house
GUIDE PRICE: £50,000/£55,000

LOT 4

11 PENDLE HILL, HEDNESFORD
LEASEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Detached house
◆ Three bedrooms
◆ Part double glazed
◆ In need of improvement/ refurbishment
◆ EPC rating 30

LOT 5

54 NEW PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Detached house of character
◆ Three bedrooms
◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
◆ Predominantly double glazed
◆ In need of improvement /refurbishment/ redevelopment
◆ Located in much sought after residential area of the town
GUIDE PRICE £150,000-£160,000

LOT 6

LAND OPP TRENT VALLEY TRADING ESTATE
With frontage to A51 Rugeley. Postcode of Trent Valley Trading Est WS15 2HQ
◆FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆Paddock with frontage to the River Trent
◆Area 2.60 Acres or thereabouts
GUIDE PRICE £30,000/35,000

LOT 7

LAND ADJ.THE SUMMER HOUSE INN
HOLYHEAD ROAD, PLOT 1, COUNTY LANE, BONNINGALE, ALBRIGHTON (POSTCODE OF THE SUMMER HOUSE WV7 3AT)
◆FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆Paddock extending to approximately 2.90 Acres or thereabouts.
GUIDE PRICE £30,000/£35,000

LOT 8

LAND ADJ. THE SUMMER HOUSE INN
HOLYHEAD ROAD, PLOT 2, COUNTY LANE, BONNINGALE, ALBRIGHTON (POSTCODE OF THE SUMMER HOUSE WV7 3AT)
◆FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆Paddock extending to approximately 2.37 Acres or thereabouts.
GUIDE PRICE £30,000/£35,000

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NEW

WISTERIA DRIVE, BROWNHILLS
. Detached Bungalow
. Two Bedrooms
. Lounge, Kitchen
. Utility, Conservatory
. Bathroom
. Two Parking Spaces
£695PCM - plus fees

NEW

WILLOW AVENUE, WEDNESFIELD
. Semi-Detached House
. Three Bedrooms
. Lounge, Dining Room
. Kitchen, Bathroom
. GCH, UPVC DG
. Front & Rear Gardens
£525pcm - plus fees

NEW

SEGUNDO ROAD, WALSALL
. Semi-Detached House
. Three Bedrooms
. Lounge, Dining Room
. Kitchen, Bathroom
. GCH, UPVC DG
. Driveway, Rear Garden
£510pcm - plus fees

NEW

CONWAY CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
. Semi-Detached House
. Three Bedrooms
. Lounge / Dining Room
. Kitchen With Hob & Oven
. Conservatory, Bathroom
. Driveway, Garage
£500pcm - plus fees

NEW

ALEXANDRA ROAD, WEDNESBURY
. Newly Refurbished
. Semi-Detached House
. Two Bedrooms
. Lounge, Dining Room
. Kitchen, Bathroom
. GCH, UPVC DG
£495pcm - plus fees

NEW

CHURCH STREET, DARLASTON
. Split Level Flat
. Two Bedrooms
. Lounge / Dining Room
. Kitchen With Hob & Oven
. Shower Room
. GCH, Part DG
£395pcm - plus fees

NEW

CHURCH STREET, DARLASTON
. Ground Floor Flat
. One Bedroom
. Lounge, Kitchen
. Shower Room
. UPVC Double Glazing
. Electric Heating
£375pcm - plus fees

NEW

CORPORATION STREET, WALSALL
. First Floor Flat
. Two Double Bedrooms
. Lounge, Dining Kitchen
. Bathroom
. UPVC DG, GCH
. Parking To Rear
£375pcm - plus fees

NEW

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, WALSALL
. Flat Above Shop
. One Bedroom
. Kitchen With Some Appliances
. Lounge, Shower Room
. Gas Central Heating
. UPVC DG, GCH
£350pcm - plus fees

NEW

VICTORIA TERRACE,WALSALL
. Ground Floor Studio Flat
. Hallway
. Kitchen & Lounge
. Bedroom Area & Bathroom
. Storage Heaters
. Close To Arboretum
£350pcm - plus fees

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15 Lichfield Street, Walsall

The Property Ombudsman LETTINGS

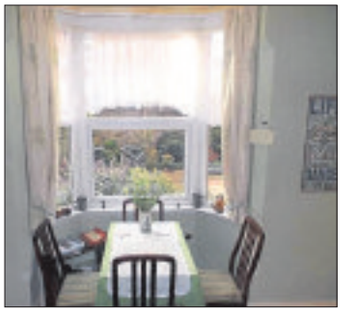
Family home is full of charm and character

NEW to the property market, this four-bedroomed period residence in Slaney Road, Walsall is for sale through Dixons at £230,000.

It has two reception rooms (including one with a character period fireplace), an attractive well fitted modern kitchen diner, guest WC, cellar, four bedrooms and a large driveway and rear garden.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "This family home is full of character and is available to view immediately, offering plenty of space for a large family looking for a traditional home in a conveniently situated location."

For further information contact Dixons on 01922 432011 or visit www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk



Three-bedroomed home ready to view

THIS recently built three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Old Birchills, Walsall is now available to view.

On a small development close to amenities, it is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £130,000. It has an entrance hall with stairs off, WC, kitchen with contemporary units with an oven and hob and extractor hood, a lounge incorporating a dining area with doors opening to the rear garden, three bedrooms, a bathroom with a contemporary white suite with bath and shower above, fore garden and rear garden with patio and lawn.

For further information contact Paul Dubberley on 01922 241100 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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Pool Hayes Lane,Willenhall
- Five Bedroom Detached
- Three Reception Rooms
- Three Bath/Shower Rooms
- Master Bedroom/Ensuite
- Large Fitted Kitchen
- Large Utility

Monthly Rental Of £995

Lichfield Road,Willenhall
- Three/Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Conservatory
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower

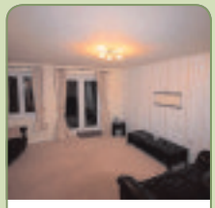
Monthly Rental Of £795

Castings Close,Walsall
- NEW BUILD
- FOUR BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- GUEST W.C
- LOUNGE/DINER
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE

Monthly Rental Of £725

Castings Close,Walsall
- NEW BUILD
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- GUEST W.C
- LOUNGE/DINER
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE

Monthly Rental Of £675



Rough Brook Road,Walsall
- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Entrance Hall
- Fitted Kitchen
- Through Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Double glazing

Monthly Rental Of £650

Wave Close,Walsall
- Two Bedroom New Build Apartment
- Lift to Third Floor
- Large Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Separate Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £595

Broad Lane,Walsall
- Immaculate Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden & Decking Area
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £595

Buttermere Grove,Willenhall
- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Popular Coppice Farm Estate
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- New Flooring Throughout

Monthly Rental Of £550

Jesson Close,Walsall
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £550

Davy Road,Walsall
- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Completely Refurbished
- Entrance Porch/Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Side Passageway

Monthly Rental Of £550

Stuart Street,Walsall
- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom / Separate WC
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £525

Goscote Lane,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge with Feature Fire Place
- Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted. Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £525

Hollemeadow Avenue,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £495

West Street,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Mid - Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted. Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £475

Terret Close,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Lounge with French Doors
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom & Ensuite
- Allocated Parking Space
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £475

Southey Close,Willenhall
- Two Bedrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Side Entry
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £475

Evesham Crescent,Mossley
- hree Bed Semi-Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Diner
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted
- NO REFERENCING FEES
-

Monthly Rental of £475

Merton Way,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Top Floor
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- Master with En-Suite

Monthly Rental Of £475

Cresswell Crescent,Walsall
- Three Bedroom Duplex Flat
- Completely Refurbished
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Fitted Bathroom
- Large Lounge
- Entrance Hall

Monthly Rental Of £475

Providence Lane,Walsall
- Three Bed End Terrace
- New Flooring Throughout
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £475

Botany Road,Walsall
- Three Bedroom property
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental of £475

Rockingham Close,Walsall
- Two Bedroom Quadrant House
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking Space
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £465

West Street,Walsall
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- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £450

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- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
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- Kitchen
- Bathroom
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- ●● NO REFERENCING FEES ●●

Monthly Rental Of £425

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Tesla now in the Midlands

Electric car maker Tesla continues its expansion in the UK with the launch of a new West Midlands-based store and six 'Supercharger' recharging points.

A five-minute drive from A45 and A38, the Tesla Birmingham retail and service centre in Digbeth is the firm's fourth UK store.

By the end of 2014, customers will be able to visit Tesla stores and service centres across the country. The company is currently recruiting for upcoming sales and service facilities in Manchester, Bristol, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

The company also continues to expand its charging network, with six Supercharging sites now open.

In London, three new Supercharging sites at Canary Wharf, Tower Bridge and Westfield White City add to locations at Portman Square and Royal Victoria Docks.

As well as Tesla's existing site in Birmingham, the company has added Reading, Bristol and Edinburgh to its network. Within the next six months, the company claims Model S drivers will be able to drive the length of the UK relying only on Superchargers.

Commenting on the company's progress, Georg Ell, Tesla's country director for the UK and Ireland, said: "We are working on additional London locations with new sites to be announced shortly. Our plan for routes around the UK is also under way and we now have four locations outside of the capital."

Huge success of new Mitsubishi franchise - we now need to reduce our used car stocks

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BJ63VML Mitsubishi Mirage 3 GJ3 1.2 5 Door Red Metallic 0,000 miles £8991
BK63TZH Mitsubishi Mirage 3 GJ3 1.200 5 Door Reef Blue 2,000 miles £8991
WU13ZJX Mitsubishi Mirage 3 1.0 5 Door Hatch Polar White 0,000 miles £6991
BN14GOX Mitsubishi Mirage 3 GJ3 1.2 5 Door Eisen Grey 2,000 miles £9991
BU64MFF Mitsubishi Mirage 3 GJ4 Cvt 1.2 Auto 5 Door Reef Blue 0 miles £11991
BU64MFK Mitsubishi ASX 2 Pc2 2wd 1.6 5 Door Hatch Amethyst Black 24 miles £14991
WN12GLJ Mitsubishi ASX 3 Clear Tec Di-d 1.8 Diesel 5 Door Hatchback Kingfisher Blue 12,000 miles £12891
BN14GPK Mitsubishi ASX 3 2wd 1.6 5 Door Hatch Orient Red 0,000 miles £14991
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BK63TZD Mitsubishi Outlander GX 5 Di-d 2.3 Diesel Automatic Estate Atlantic Grey 0 miles £26291
BN14GSO Mitsubishi Outlander GX 5 Di-d 2.3 Diesel Automatic Estate White Pearl 3,000 miles £28991
DU13HBZ Mitsubishi Colt CZ1 1.1 3 Door Hatchback White 9,000 miles £5991
GF10XTY Mitsubishi L200 Barbarian 2.5 Dcb Di-d 4x4 Diesel Automatic Pick-up Blue 46,000 miles £14991
BJ63VMK Mitsubishi L200 Trojan Dcb Di-d 4x4 2.5 Diesel Pick-up White 2,000 miles £16991
DN60EJL Mitsubishi L200 Barbarian Lb Dcb Di-d 4x4 2.5 Diesel Pick-up Silver 19,000 miles £14991
WP60YWA Mitsubishi L200 4work Club Cab Di-d 2.5 Diesel Pick-up Black 38,000 miles £11591
DY11DXH Mitsubishi L200 Trojan 4x4 2.5 Diesel Pick-up Black 0,000 miles £8991
DL10UPH Mitsubishi L200 Barbarian 2.8 4x4 Diesel Pick-up Grey 0 miles £12495
BU64MFV Mitsubishi Shogun SWB Barbarian 3.2 Diesel 3 Door Frost White 2,000 miles £29991
VK59ENW Citroen Berlingo 1.6 VTR 90 MPV Grey 38,000 miles £4991

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CE08EFW Ford C-Max Style 1.6 MPV Blue 33,000 miles £4991
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BJ64EWW Suzuki Alto SZ 1.0 5 Door Hatchback Fortune Rose Pearl 0 miles £5991
BN64OKF Suzuki Alto SZ4 1.0 5 Door Hatchback Superior White 0 miles £7491
BD14GGF Suzuki Alto SZ 1.0 5 Door Hatchback Glistening Gray Metallic 0,000 miles £5991
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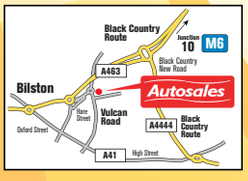

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Meriva has appeal for family car purchasers

By Anthony Martyn

It used to be so difficult. You wanted a vehicle with decent economy that could do the family duties, yet had something about it when you pressed the throttle pedal. Trying to square those requirements for a reasonable budget could tie even the most knowledgeable car enthusiast in knots.

These days things are a whole lot easier. If you want to know how easy, just go to a Vauxhall dealer and cajole them into lending you a Meriva 1.6 CDTi diesel. It's a car that's been steadily improved over the course of its lifetime, but replacing the old 1.7-litre diesel lump with a smaller but more modern, powerful and economical engine has given this particular Meriva real appeal for family buyers.

Developing a healthy 136PS, this Euro6-compliant motor serves up a supersized 320Nm of torque at just 2,000rpm, which lends it a hugely muscular feel. In fact this Meriva will get to 62mph in just 9.9 seconds and Vauxhall has worked at improving the quality of the six-speed manual gearshift so that changes are slicker and gear engagement more reassuring.

Refinement at speed is a notable strong point, with the engine only really becoming vocal at around 4,000rpm, at which point you will have probably upshifted anyway.

This facelifted second generation Meriva gets a revised grille, but the chrome accents that frame the front fog lamps aren't so obvious. The headlights now feature an 'eagle-eye' graphic. For the first time, LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights are available as an option. If you're in the mood to tick options boxes, you can also pay extra for some 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Meriva still differentiates itself from its many rivals via its rear-hinged back doors. The advantage of this design comes when entering and exiting the vehicle as the doors open to an angle of almost 90 degrees and you can step straight out unhindered.

It also helps parents when they're strapping the kids in or fitting child car seats because there's no door in the way to manoeuvre around.

Plusher

The interior itself is based around the FlexSpace seating system which allows the rear seats to fold down and slide individually.

Splitting the cabin on the plusher models is the FlexRail, a pair of metal runners between the front seats that various modular storage bins and arm-rests can be clipped to and slid along.

It's all very clever but those who have a thing for plastics quality might feel that some parts of the Meriva's cabin – especially rearwards from the front seats – show clear signs of cost-cutting.

Still, that's the case with many of its rivals.

Whereas you used to have legions of trim level variations to wade through, with this 1.6-litre CDTi, things are more straightforward. You either pay just over £19,000 and buy the S trim or you pay just over £21,000 and bag yourself the SE specification.

The S isn't badly finished with an ESP-plus electronic stability control system, twin front airbags, an electric parking brake, a CD/MP3 CD player/stereo radio with USB and AUX-in socket, electric front windows, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, remote central deadlocking and front side airbags.

Go for the up-spec SE version and you'll find a panoramic glass sunroof, 17-inch alloy wheels, folding seatback trays and under-seat drawers, a trip computer, cruise control, curtain airbags, leather trim for the steering wheel and gear shifter and heating for both the seats and the wheel.

Calculations

There are many MPV or SUV owners who have looked at the cost of petrol and diesel derivatives of the same car, done the calculations and decided that based on the amount of miles they do, they'd never justify the additional expense of the diesel variant.

So they buy the petrol model and soon come to realise that the torque deficit you get with entry-level petrol engines requires you to flog them really hard to make progress. They look at their economy figures and then realise the error of their ways. They should have bought a car like this Meriva 1.6 CDTi.

Emissions are also kept well in check at just 116g/km which, like the economy figure, is even better than the lowly 1.3-litre CDTi diesel engine you can also have fitted in your Meriva.

Residual values ought to be strong as well, with many buyers being attracted to the Meriva range's best and most economical powerplant.

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5 Business & Farming

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE
Premises: 2A - 4 Peacock Road, Darlaston, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 8PR
Notice is hereby given that Lahmber Singh Mattu has applied to Walsall Council as the Licensing Authority for a premises licence under s.17 of the Licensing Act 2003.
Licensable Activities
Sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises
Monday - Saturday 06:00 - 22:30
Sunday 07:00 - 22:00
Opening Hours
Monday - Saturday 06:00 - 22:30
Sunday 07:00 - 22:00
Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Walsall WS1 1TP. Representations must be received no later than 12th December 2014.
The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address.
It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000).

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

14/1704/LB: Mr David Hall FOR: Listed Building Consent for Removal of single storey rear flat roofed structure, making good rear elevation and like for like repairs to wider building fabric. AT: 206 Old Birchills, Walsall, WS2 8QD

14/1345/FL G C Rickards Ltd FOR: Erection of 12 no. 1 bedroom apartments in a three storey block

AT: SITE OF FORMER COALPOOL CLINIC, ROSS ROAD, RYECROFT, WALSALL

* 14/1720/FL B T Felton & Sons FOR: Proposed residential development to form 14 no. three bedroom dwellings (affecting the setting of public footpath Bro52) AT: BOURNEVALE MOTORS, 8 LICHFIELD ROAD,SHELFIELD,WALSALL,WS4 1PY

The application marked * does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.

10 Personals

personal

BLACK COUNTY BORN & BRED
Male smoker, late 50's, car owner, hard working, medium height/build, W.L.T.M. his soul mate, sincere/honest lady, looks not important slim/medium build. For lots of love and cuddles. G.S.O.H. Done clubbing, time to settle down with. L.term partner. Pets welcome. Local area if possible.
Box Number P19579 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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KIND MALE 57
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Gr-eight display gives win to Khalsa

Wolverhampton SC 0 Sporting Khalsa 8

SPORTING Khalsa brushed aside a young Sporting Community to progress to the next round of the Staffordshire FA Vase.

The home side chalked up just one shot on goal as they were dominated by Khalsa, for whom Craig Bannister and Brad Lawley grabbed hat-tricks.

It took until the 20th minute before the deadlock was broken when Craig Bannister drove home from 15 yards.

Lawley did got his first when he fired home after brilliant work by Carlo Franco.

The match was all but finished as a contest just before the interval when Bannister grabbed his second, turning home from close range after some horror show defending from the home side.

Just after the break, Lawley doubled his tally with a free header from a Tim Jackson corner before a brilliant dribble and shot by Mensah Kinch made it 5-0.

Craig Bannister slotted home from close range on 53 minutes to make it six and Lawley repeated the feat on 62 minutes.

Jamie Oliver wrapped up the scoring for Khalsa on 84 minutes, powering home a header.

Paddock on a make or break mission

Luke Paddock

BLOXWICH'S Luke Paddock has admitted it's "make or break" when he hits the road in his quest to claim the Midlands light welterweight title next week, writes Craig Birch.

'Cool Hand' will step into the lion's den at the Queen's Theatre in Burslem a week on Saturday for fight night where he will be facing Stoke's Josh McClaren.

They are set to co-challenge for the vacant belt in a role reversal for Paddock, who went through two opponents trying to get the title fight at Wolverhampton Civic Hall in October.

Champion Calum Cooper retired after failing a brain scan, while late replacement Chris Truman pulled out, leaving Simas Volosinas as the last man standing.

Paddock had to be content with adding the International Masters crown to British Bronze honours by a wide points decision, moving to eight straight wins as a professional.

Boxing

McLaren is slightly less experienced but, like his adversary, has an unblemished paid record with one stoppage, also on a cut, after six contests so will be no pushover.

Both are skillfull fighters rather than power houses and minds are at rest – the Potteries stylist has given no cause for concern that he won't take his place in the ring in 12 days time.

Paddock said: "I have known of him for years, we both boxed for the amateur circuit although we never came across each other in the ring.

"I reckon this will be my toughest test yet. He's a nice, tidy boxer so I have to be on top of my game, making him miss and then punishing him for it," added Paddock.

"It's make-or-break for me, I can't let this opportunity pass me by after everything I have come through. And I think facing a fellow boxer will bring the best out of me."

McLaren knows he has to put it all on the line, too, saying: "This is a massive step up for me but one that I'm 100 per cent ready to take.

"Not many boxers have fought for an area title after just six fights, so it is a massive opportunity to show what I'm about.

"I'll be in the shape of my life."

This will be the first time that Paddock boxes outside of the area – he is that desperate to get his shot that he gave up home advantage to McLaren.

The 22-year-old said: "I will be in hostile territory, I know that, and I need to keep that crowd quiet. Too much noise from them can sway the judges.

"I am sure there will be plenty of support for Josh on the night.

For tickets call 07913 861 718.

Anchor is sunk by Bush in league

Lichfield & Walsall District Football League

Premier League

ANCHOR FC 2 AFC Bush 3; New Inns FC 2 Longhorn FC 3

League One

Alma FC 3 Saddlers Arms 3; Cannock Wood 1 Swan FC 1; Pelsall Villa Colts 2 Erdington Star 2; Walsall Phoenix 3 Boney Hay 1

League Two

Duke of Wellington 1
Dog FC 3
Q-Bar FC 8
Trent Valley Rovers 3

League Three

Cellar Door 2
Queens Head 5
W'hall 3 Crowns 5
Gunners FC 4

DFL League Trophy - Group A

GS Rockets 15
Ros Park 3

Lichfield Challenge Cup - Round One

Green Rock Tav. 3
Hussey Arms 2
Longdon Chet 0
Prince of Wales 10

Staffs Sam Kimberley Cup - Round Three

ASP Victoria 1
AFC Greenheath 9
Bridge Inn 0
Dr.Johnson 6
Hen House 1
Burntwood Star 5 aet
Oak Park Rangers 5
Jubilee 2
Scales FC 2
Bowman FC 4
Wych Elm FC 4
Eximius Warriors 3

Wood high five it into the next round

Causeway United 1 Walsall Wood 5

WOOD progressed to Round three of the FA Vase with a comfortable five-goal demolition of the Cause.

Having used all their substitutes, Wood lost Lewis Taylor Boyce to an injury with 21 minutes left but held out comfortably to move into the draw. It couldn't have started better for Wood, in their first attack they almost went ahead throughCorey Currithers.

He cut in from the left and working through two tackles before being scythed down from behind in the centre of the D by Darren Whitley.

After lengthy treatment to Currithers Harry Harris fired in a free kick that deflected past keeper Tom Turner to put Wood in front.

It took just nine minutes for the Cause to equalise, Anthony Robinson won a right wing corner that was headed out to the left of the box, Currithers inexplicably headed the ball back into the centre of the box for Nicholas Fellows to power a header home.

On 15 minutes Wood were back in front, Leon Taylor hit a superb 50-yard left to right cross field ball to pick out Ben Evans on the right of the box, he ran on and fired an unstoppable low drive across the keeper.

Three minutes later Wood were in dreamland, Joey Butlin released Max Black into the centre of the box, his low drive came back off the foot of the left hand post and Currithers gleefully tucked away the rebound.

Craig Deakin hit a ball over the top of the defence to find Black on the right of the box, his low cross was half blocked by Jack Pearlman and Turner dropped on the loose ball to deny Taylor. From a left wing corner on 34 minutes Butlin pulled

Football

the flag kick back to Harris who hit a dipping volley just over from 25 yards.

Three minutes later a long ball forward by Lee Stretton found Evans on the right, he cut across the face of the box, played a clever one-two with Taylor and his first time low drive was blocked by Whitley.

On 38 minutes Wisdom Machangani was released into the right of the box, his cross shot beating keeper Mario Kisiel and the far post.

A minute later it was all over, Taylor raced onto a ball into the right of the box, his fierce low drive was pushed away by Turner but Currithers following up made it 4-1.

On 53 minutes Shawn Boothe scored his second goal in four days.

Lewis Taylor Boyce was injured and left the field, leaving Wood who had used their three substitutes down to 10 men for the last 21 minutes.

Right on 90 minutes a Butlin 30-yard central free kick brought a stunning' full-length save from Turner.

There was still time for Deakin to collect his fifth booking of the season, a caution that rules him out of the Round 3 game.

In-form Harborne grab the victory from Blox

Bloxwich's Danny Palmer was a key figure in the match against Harborne

Bloxwich RFC 1st XV 24 Harborne RFC 33

SECOND in the league Harborne RFC scored 90 points the previous weekend and travelled to King George's in good form.

Bloxwich welcomed back prop Richard 'Rooster' Jones after four weeks out through injury.

The benefit of his return was evident when Bloxwich were awarded a penalty try after the Harborne pack crumbled under pressure on their try line. Danny Palmer converted.

Harborne decided to keep the ball away from the dominant Bloxwich pack and reverted to their running rugby to strike back with two tries of their own.

With fly half Palmer orchestrating play, Bloxwich struck again with good hands to present winger Chris Thomas the opportunity to touch down in the corner. Palmer converted.

Harborne started the second half the stronger side and defensive mistakes from Bloxwich let them in for the opening score of the half. The next 20 minutes saw both sides have chances with Bloxwich dominant in the set piece. Palmer then placed a perfect cross field kick for winger Chris Thomas to collect and score.

The conversion missed .

The remaining 15 minutes saw both sides pull out all the stops searching for the win. The visitors took the lead.

Richard Geary crossed the line for the unconverted try. Bloxwich were rewarded with a bonus point.

Opening 'killer for Baggies'

BOSS Alan Irvine believes Chelsea's controversial opening goal spoiled his team's chances of pulling off a shock at Stamford Bridge.

Irvine's men went down 2-0 to the Premier League leaders and had Claudio Yacob sent off but Irvine was upset by the award of Chelsea's opener, with replays suggesting scorer Diego Costa was fractionally offside when Oscar delivered the cross.

"We could have been a little bit more on the front foot from the front but the game was really just settling down, I felt," said Irvine, who defended his players' performance. "Then obviously we lost the first goal and that rocked us. That made a difficult task even more difficult."

"What we have to do is look at that game and take the positives out of it.

"Ben Foster was terrific. It's the most he's had to do this season by a long way," said Irvine.

Rowe calls for Wolves' pride to rise

TOMMY ROWE says Wolves must not be scared to get on the ball as they look to end their losing run – insisting bravery is the only way to get their shattered confidence back.

Successive maulings against East Midlands opposition have seen Wolves drop down into a congested mid-table after a promising start to life back in the Championship.

Things will get no easier with Saturday's trip to Brentford – the Bees are buzzing after going fifth in the table thanks to four straight wins.

And, after the weekend's 3-0 home loss to Nottingham Forest, midfield man Rowe admitted Wolves must start to show their claws if the losing run is to stop at three.

He said: "Confidence is massive but I think you've got to earn the confidence; you've got to show a bit of pride and get on the ball when things are hard.

"It's not easy."

Football side tops contest

A Walsall college football team has reached the top spot in a regional tournament winning the chance to represent the West Midlands at the national finals next year.

The group of 12 supported learning students from Walsall College beat off tough competition from eight other colleges.

The squad claimed victory without losing a game and scoring an impressive 10 goals during the Association of Colleges Sport West Midlands LD Football Tournament.

The national finals are set to take place in Bath in March.

Walsall squander chances to take game

Whitchurch 28 Walsall 27

WALSALL scored three tries, but then contrived to squander four more fairly easy try scoring opportunities.

The hosts, in contrast, produced four opportunistic scores all from within their own half. Walsall exerted a great deal of pressure right from the start.

A Whitchurch attack from deep in their own half saw them break through tackles and resulted in James Park touching down under the posts.

Ryan Horton converted and then scored a try from a similar position six minutes later.

Walsall continued to press and another chance was missed after Steve Halbert, Simon Weaver and Tarik Tin covered 40 metres before the final pass went astray. Constant pressure did eventually result in Weston kicking two penalties before half time.

The visitors started the second period in an optimistic mood. But a down field kick saw the hosts counter attack from 70 metres which resulted in winger Ben Dodd going through for the touchdown.

The game followed a similar pattern with Walsall camped in opposition territory. Good ball carries by Mike Benson, Tin, Halbert and No.8 Rod Dickson resulted in a scrum close to the Whitchurch line.

A powerful push disrupted the hosts and flanker James Hickman was quick to pounce for a try which Weston converted.

As the game entered the final quarter, it seemed the visitors were finishing the strongest. But yet again their fragile defence was exposed as another 50 metre attack resulted in a try.

Park finishing off with another touchdown with Horton making his fourth successful conversion. The introduction of Jeffrey Williamson added some power to the Walsall back division and hee was involved in his team's final two scores.

Good passing gave him some space and Dickson supported well and ran in a try from 20 metres. Weston's conversion made it 28 – 20 with 10 minutes left.

The Walsall teameventually secured, what proved to be a bonus point score when Wood and Mould combined to put Williamson away.

Good support play resulted in Hickman crossing for his second which Weston converted. Walsall United suffered a similar fate as the first team. They dominated for long periods. But they then conceded a late try and lost 15-10 to Burton. Reece Bennett scored their only try with Mitch Carless converting and kicking a penalty.

Stone 0 Walsall 3rds 20

This was a satisfying performance against the current league leaders.

Walsall Junior Rugby

Walsall U-16s 0 Broadstreet U-16s 32

Walsall had several players missing against a strong Broadstreet team.

The whole team defended really well and restricted the visitors to just two tries in the first half.

Broadstreet U-15s 0 Walsall U-15s 52

Walsall dominated the game at Broadstreet. Finn Moseley and Dan Morris volunteered to play for the Coventry team.

Seconds are shut out away

Bloxwich 2nds 0 Gnosall 26

BLOXWICH 2nds travelled to Gnosall and put in a good display despite a 26-0 loss.

Short of backs Bloxwich fielded some of the young members of the pack, who never stopped trying until the final whistle.

Bloxwich RFC were pleased to welcome two players from neighbours Essington RFC for guest appearances, due to the Essington RFC fixture being postponed. Bloxwich RFC welcomes both players to join them for training on Thursday nights 6.30pm Stafford Road Sports Club, King George's Field.

SPORT

Wood wins
Squad high five it into the next round
Page 51

Harborne high
Bloxwich battle but win eludes them
Page 51

Sports Desk 01902 319531 email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Hopes of Tom's return for clash

DEAN Smith remains hopeful Walsall's top scorer Tom Bradshaw will return for this weekend's derby at Coventry. The nine-goal striker missed his third straight game with a hamstring injury at Fleetwood on Saturday.

His fitness will be assessed again this week, along with that of midfielder Sam Mantom who was also absent again with a long-term knee problem. Wide player Mal Benning meanwhile has undergone a scan on a knee injury suffered in last week's FA Cup defeat to Shrewsbury.

Saturday's win was the Saddlers first in the league without Bradshaw in the starting line-up and Smith was delighted with the performance, after ringing the changes on the forward line.

"I'm hopeful Tom will be available (for Coventry) but if not, the lads have shown us what they can do," said Smith, whose team have now taken 10 points from the last 12 – a run he is eager to see continue.

"It is looking positive and that is what we will take from it," added the manager. "We will move on to another tough game against Coventry." Smith has spoken with Romaine Sawyers, Anthony Forde and Mathieu Manset about their below par displays.

Strong Blox grab points

Whitchurch 3
Bloxwich Men's 1sts 7

BLOXWICH managed to get a comprehensive three points after a long drive across to Whitchurch.

Bloxwich's quick-paced indoor training in the week seemed to have a great benefit on the speed at which Bloxwich passed the ball and the team dictated the pace of the game from the starting whistle.

Bloxwich got an early goal from Matt Whitehouse.

The game was fairly one sided from here on in with Matt getting a second and Adam Baldwin coming off the bench to score four. Bloxwich's performancedipped in the second half allowing Whitchurch scoring two short corners and a flick.

The refereesblew for full time eight minutes earlyrestarted it. Steve Mallows got the final Bloxwich goal.

Rushall's unbeaten run is Stam-ped on

Stamford 3 Rushall 0

Football

RUSHALL saw their four-game unbeaten streak come to an end at Stamford in the last ever game at The Daniels Ground.

The home side started off the Evo-Stik Premier clash the better and capped their first spell of possession with a goal.

Tom McGowan picked up the ball 30 yards from goal and played a pass over to Ryan Robbins, who finished past Cameron Belford with the outside of his left boot.

Carlton McKenzie had a run on Stamford's goal as Mitchell Tolley and Callum Williams exchanged neat passes, but the Pics winger only found the supporters in the stand with his effort.

Kris Taylor picked out McKenzie in the box but his acrobatic attempt was unable to beat home goalkeeper Andrew Stevens.

McKenzie turned provider as he played in Aaron Farrell who sprinted away from his marker only to be denied a goal by Stevens, who saved well at the striker's feet.

Jake Heath was harshly adjudged to have brought down Robbins on Rushall's right and Dan Lawlor bent in the free kick – which nobody got a touch on – to send Stamford in two goals to the good at half-time.

Boss Richard Sneekes made a double change at the break with Stan Mugisha and new signing James Reid replacing Josh Craddock and Farrell. The changes didn't seem to work straight away as Josh Moreman pounced on a mistake by Williams to beat the defender down the line and into the box only to see his effort slide just past the far post.

Taylor tried his luck with a free-kick but the visitors found themselves 3-0 down from it.

His effort was caught by Stevens who immediately launched a counter-attack as Josh Moreman got to the by-line and pulled the ball back for an unmarked Nabil Shariff to curl home a third for Stamford on the hour.

Carl Palmer headed at goal from a Taylor free-kick but his superb effort was matched by Stevens' save as he tipped it over the bar.

Jordan Smith should have added a fourth – and many of the home fans momentarily thought he had.

SAWYER SLICES UP FLEETWOOD

Fleetwood 0 Walsall 1

Football

WALSALL are making a nice habit of ending unbeaten runs.

Having put paid to Notts County's 11-game spell without defeat, the Saddlers again on Saturday proved the tougher the apparent challenge, the better they perform in becoming the first team to beat Fleetwood on their own patch since February.

And of course, it also erased a rather niggling statistic from their own record, as they claimed their first league win of the season without Tom Bradshaw.

It won't remove all of the doubts about Saddlers' attack without their top scorer. They should have had more than Romaine Sawyers' solitary strike to show for their dominance and were forced to hang on at the end.

Limpness

But, nevertheless, it was a big step in the right direction.

Dean Smith, frustrated by his team's limpness in last week's FA Cup exit at Shrewsbury, made good on his threat of changes by handing recalls to James Baxendale and Ashley Grimes. Both repaid the manager with strong performances.

Grimes' display, in his first start since early October, was particularly pleasing. With Jordan Cook far more mobile than the dropped Mathieu Manset as centre-forward, the Saddlers were far more fluid and flexible. The only criticism, aside from the failure to make the most of their chances, might be that on occasions they over-complicated things.

But while the forwards were much-improved, the real heroes of this win were on the flanks in the shape of full-backs Andy Taylor and Ben Purkiss, whose willingness to switch play and get forward neutralised the hosts' midfield diamond and allowed the Saddlers complete control.

Purkiss was also prominent during five-and-a-half minutes of second half stoppage time as the Saddlers hung on for a win which leaves them within touching distance of the top half.

Fleetwood started brightly and Gareth Evans struck a volley just wide and Martin Paterson forced a fine save from visiting keeper Richard O'Donnell.

But having weathered the opening 15 minutes the Saddlers then took control and were worthy of the lead they claimed when Sawyers lashed home with his weaker left-foot Walsall's failure to add a second meant a nerve-shredding final 10 minutes as the hosts suddenly kicked into gear.

Walsall's Michael Cain is sent tumbling during the away match against Fleetwood

Walsall had point to prove

BEN PURKISS claims the desire to be "coupon busters" helped drive Walsall to their stunning win at Fleetwood.

The Saddlers upset the odds as they became the first visiting team to win at Highbury Stadium in more than nine months.

And Purkiss revealed how manager Dean Smith used the chance to prove both the bookies and punters wrong as motivation for his side's second straight away league win, following on from an equally impressive victory at Notts County earlier this month.

"I think coupon busters is the cliché," said the defender. "Sometimes I read on Twitter pundits working out their accumulators and I always quite like it when they back the other team.

"I saw that before Saturday and I saw it before Notts County as well," said Purkiss.

"We went there and the gaffer used it as motivation. I think we rose to the occasion and thoroughly deserved the win."

Romaine Sawyers got the only goal of the game in the first half as the Saddlers claimed a 1-0 win.

Freddie is back as Wolves rider

SPEEDWAY ace Freddie Lindgren set his sights on the play-offs after sealing a return to Wolves.

The popular 29-year-old Swede's return to Monmore, following a year away, was confirmed on Monday at the club's winter talk-in with fans. Lindgren first raced for Wolves in 2003 as a 17-year-old.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, November 27

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